

MINUTES

OF THE

Sixty-Eight Annual Session

OF THE

Cumberland Association

OF

Freewill Christian Baptist

HELD WITH

—Cofer's Chapel Church—

CITY OF NASHVILLE, TENN.

September 27-28-29,

1911



J. E. HUDGENS, Moderator, Ashland City, Tenn., R. R. 1

MRS. H. P. SMITH, Clerk,Indian Mound, Tenn.

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CLARKSVILLE, TENN.

W. P. TITUS, PRINTER AND BINDER

—1912—

Order of Business

WEDNESDAY.

1. Devotional exercises.
2. Calling roll.
3. Election of officers.
4. Reading letters from various Churches.
5. Calling for petitionary letters.
6. Calling for corresponding letters from Associations of Churches
7. Appointment of Committees.
8. Adjournment.

THURSDAY.

1. Devotional exercises.
2. Calling roll.
3. Reading minutes of previous meeting.
4. Hearing reports from Standing Committees.
5. Hearing reports from Special Committees.
6. Hearing resolutions.
7. Miscellaneous business.
8. Adjournment.

FRIDAY MORNING.

1. Devotional exercises.
2. Calling roll.
3. Reading minutes of previous meeting.
4. Hearing resolutions.
5. Miscellaneous business.

FORM OF CHURCH LETTER.

We, the Freewill Christian Baptist Church of Christ at.....
Church,.....County, Tenn:

To the Cumberland Association of Freewill Christian Baptist Church, when convened with.....Church,.....County, Tenn. We have chosen our Messengers, to-wit:.....

Our statistics are as follows: Received by experience....; by letter....; by recommendation....; by restoration....; dismissed by letter....; excluded....; died....; transferred by request....; total number in fellowship....; church property....; our day of meeting is....; our pastor is....; we have called....to pastor us the ensuing year; our deacons are: 1st. name...., address....; 2nd. name...., address....; 3rd. name...., address....; 4th. name...., address....; our S. S. Superintendent is: name...., address....; our S. S. Secretary is: name...., address....; our enrollment in Sunday School is:....; we have collected....this year; we paid our pastor....; we paid our missionary....; we send....for minutes; we paid out....for other expenses, and have left....in treasury. Done by order of church on the...day of....191..

.....Moderator; Address.....
.....Clerk; Address.....

Sixty-Eighth Annual Meeting

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

Bro. E. S. Pruitt preached the introductory sermon at 11:00 a. m. from 23rd Psalm. His sermon was very interesting.

The Annual Association of Free Will Christian Baptist met in its 68th session with Cofer's Chapel, Nashville, Tenn., September 27, 28, 29, 1911.

The retiring Moderator, Rev. D. T. Armstrong, being present, called the Association to order at 2:00 o'clock p. m., Wednesday.

The retiring Clerk, Rev. J. H. Oliver, called the roll, and a quorum present.

The following officers were elected, viz: Rev. J. E. Hudgins, Moderator; Rev. D. T. Armstrong, Assistant Moderator, and Mrs. H. P. Smith, Clerk.

Reading of letters from churches begun. Several letters were read when a motion was made and carried to suspend order of business long enough to appoint a Devotional Committee. The following committee was appointed: Rev. A. D. Duncan, Rev. J. L. Welch, and Rev. C. H. Pickle.

Reading of letters was resumed and completed.

The following committees were appointed:

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS—Willie Walker, H. W. Binkley and Joe Gower.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—J. H. Oliver, R. M. Luter, Mrs. Nancy Parker.

The appointment of committees was suspended and letters from sister Associations called for and two were received, and read, one from New Union Association and one from Tennessee River Association.

On motion the letter from Tennessee River Association be accepted as read and the carrier, G. W. Mitchell, be invited to set in council with us.

On motion the New Union Association letter was received as read.

The right hand of fellowship was extended to Rev. G. W. Mitchell in behalf of this Association by Rev. J. E. Hudgens, Moderator, and he was seated in council with us. Welcome was also extended to Bro. J. P. Cox from Liberty General Baptist Association of Indiana, by Rev. J. E. Hudgens, Moderator, and invited to sit in council with us.

The appointment of committees was resumed and the following were appointed:

LITERATURE—J. L. Welch, E. S. Pruitt, C. H. Pickle.

EDUCATION—G. W. Fambrough, Mrs. H. P. Smith, Bill Procter.

OBITUARIES—A. D. Duncan, George Hyde, H. P. Smith.

FINANCE—J. E. Smith, A. H. Hudgens, John Newman.

TEMPERANCE—Dave Douglas, W. G. Sullivan, W. W. Davis, John Gower, M. S. Crow.

MISSIONS—C. C. Cagle, D. T. Armstrong, H. P. Smith, G. H. Austin, W. M. Rogers.

STATE OF CHURCH—D. T. Armstrong, E. S. Pruitt, J. H. Oliver, W. M. Rogers, M. S. Crow.

CHARACTER OF MINISTERS—Charley Dowell, John Lawrence, G. G. Harris, W. R. Swift, W. H. Binkley.

On motion the hours of business was fixed from 9:30 a. m. to 11:00 a. m., and from 2:00 p. m. to 4:00 p. m.

A motion prevailed and we adjourned to meet Thursday morning at 9:30.

Preaching at 8:00 p. m. by G. H. Austin. Text: Luke 14-28: "Have you counted the cost," after which there was much shouting and rejoicing in God's name.

THURSDAY MORNING.

After devotional exercises the Association was called to order by Moderator.

Minutes of Wednesday read and approved.

Address of Clerks of respective churches and names of delegates called for by Clerk and received.

Report of Standing Committees called for and none received.

Report of Committee on Temperance received and adopted and committee discharged.

Order of business was suspended and on motion that the Association invite Bro. G. H. Austin, from Mt. Union Association, to sit in council with us, the right hand of fellowship was extended and welcome was tendered Bro. Austin by Moderator and he was seated in council with us.

Report of Committee on Literature received and adopted and committee discharged.

While waiting for committees to formulate their reports, Bro. G. W. Mitchell gave us a nice talk which was enjoyed by all.

Report of Standing Committee on Grouping of Churches received and adopted and committee discharged.

While waiting for another committee to report, Bro. J. P. Cox gave us a nice talk on Associational work and form of church letter. After which we adjourned to meet at 2:00 p. m.

After we adjourned we were favored with a nice sermon by Rev. M. S. Crow. Text: 17th chapter of Acts, which caused us to rejoice mightily.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

Association met again at 2:00 p. m. as per adjournment. After devotional exercises the roll was called and a quorum present.

Business was suspended on motion, and that this Association invite Bro. E. W. Stone, of Stone Association, to sit in council with us. The right hand of fellowship and welcome was tendered to Bro. Stone by Moderator and he was seated in council with us.

Report of Committee on Missions received and adopted and committee discharged.

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools received and adopted and committee discharged.

The report of Committee on Missions was recalled and tabled and finally thrown out, after much discussion.

On motion Article No. 2 of the Constitution was changed in order to give us a better form of church letter.

On motion an order was given the Clerk to change church letter in such a way as to give to this Association better statistics of churches.

On motion an order was given the Clerk to have printed forms of church letter and to mail a form of said letter to each Clerk of the respective churches.

Report of Committee on Petition and Requests received and adopted and on motion the report be handed over to Ordaining Council and committee discharged.

Report of Committee on Obituaries was received and adopted and committee discharged.

Report of Committee to Investigate Character of Ministers read and adopted and committee discharged.

Report of Committee on Finance received and adopted, and they having handed over to the Church Clerk \$39.26 to be used in printing of minutes and pay Clerk's salary. (I have received \$1.00 from Brandon's Chapel and 50 cents from Hurricane Chapel, since Association closed, making in all \$40.76.—*Clerk.*)

A motion prevailed to adjourn to meet Friday at 9:30 a. m.

At 8:00 p. m. we had a fine sermon by Rev. J. E. Hudgens. Text: Luke 22-33. After which Miss Maggie Sullivan was reclaimed and Miss Julia Stanly was happily converted, and much rejoicing and shouting followed. God be praised.

FRIDAY MORNING.

After devotional exercises the Association was called to order at 9:30 a. m. Roll called and quorum present.

Minutes of Thursday read and adopted.

On motion a resolution was offered to investigate character of ministers which was accepted.

On motion we take up the election of a Home Missionary for this Association. The motion prevailed and E. S. Pruitt and C. H. Pickle were nominated. The election was taken by secret ballot which resulted in the election of E. S. Pruitt as Home Missionary.

A motion prevailed to adjourn to meet again at 2:00 p. m.

After we adjourned we heard a fine sermon preached by Bro. E. W. Stone, which was enjoyed by all, and shouting followed. His text was Acts 2-47.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

After devotional exercises the Association was called to order at 2:00 p. m. Roll called and quorum present.

Report on Education read and adopted and committee discharged.

The following were appointed to serve on committee as per report of Education: G. W. Fambrough, D. T. Armstrong; W. R. Swift, C. T. Dowell, H. Pickle.

A motion prevailed to take up selection of place of our next meeting. Heads, Craigfield, Oakwood and Mt. Zion were put in nomination. Mt. Zion was selected.

A Motion prevailed that this Association meet at Mt. Zion Church next year.

Bro. E. S. Pruitt tendered his resignation as Home Missionary.

A motion prevailed that this Association receive E. S. Pruitt's resignation and C. H. Pickle be elected unanimously.

Bro. C. H. Pickle was elected.

While waiting for resolutions to be framed, Bro. E. W. Stone gave us a nice talk on the printing of a paper.

A motion prevailed that a board of three be appointed to look after the buying of tent for this Association to be used by Home Missionary. The following were appointed: D. T. Armstrong, C. H. Pickle, W. M. Rogers.

The following Resolutions were passed:

RECOMMENDATIONS OF MINISTERS.

Whereas, we as Freewill Christian Baptist of the Cumberland Association have made mistakes in taking into our Presbytery as ministers, (from other denominations) who have done us much harm, and we therefore offer the following resolutions:

Be it Resolved, 1st, That we require all ministers coming from other denominations to come well recommended. 2nd, That they be required to serve a probation of twelve months before they be admitted into our Presbytery as full fledged members of said Presbytery.

Signed,

A. D. DUNCAN.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Resolved, 1st, That this Association continue to correspond with our sister Associations, thereby endeavoring to bring us into closer union as co-workers, and that the Moderator appoint the following ministering brethren to write and bear letters to

Associations to the different Baptist families as follows: To the General Association of General Baptists, Revs. W. M. Rogers and J. E. Hudgens. To the Eastern Division of the Stone Association, Rev. M. S. Crow. To the Western Division of Stone Association, Rev. A. D. Duncan. To the Cape Fear Conference of N. C., Rev. W. W. Davis. To the Tennessee River Association, Rev. W. M. Rogers, D. T. Armstrong and wife.

HOME MISSIONARY SUPPORT.

Resolved, That we would recommend that every preacher having pastoral care of one or more churches in this Association shall at the beginning of the pastoral year "appoint a Mission Board" of three or five to collect five cents per quarter from each resident member of each church and to be turned over to an Associational Secretary and Treasurer to be elected by this body, and that like collections shall be made quarterly and turned over as the first. All of which shall be paid over to our Missionary as soon as collected by the Secretary and Treasurer.

INTRODUCTORY SERMON.

Resolved, That Bro. J. L. Welch preach the Introductory Sermon, and J. E. Hudgens be Alternate.

CHANGE OF CONSTITUTION.

Resolved, That it be ordered by this Association that Article 2 of the Government and Constitution be amended to read as follows: In the letter from each church shall be expressed the number received by experience, by letter, by recommendation, by restoration, number dismissed by letter, excluded, died, transferred by request, total number in fellowship, value of church property, day of meeting, name of pastor and who called for next year, names of deacons and their addresses, name of Sunday School Superintendent and address, name of Sunday School Secretary and address, number enrolled in Sunday School, amount paid pastor, amount paid Missionary, amount sent for minutes, amount paid out to other expenses, and amount left in treasury, Moderator's name and address and Clerk's name and address.

CHURCH LETTER.

Resolved, That we instruct the Clerk of this Association to have printed forms of church letter and to distribute said form to each church of this Association.

ASSOCIATION MINUTES AND CLERK'S SALARY.

Resolved, That the Clerk of this Association be instructed to have the Minutes printed and distributed, and she be allowed \$10.00 for her services.

THANKS.

Resolved, That we as an Association tender our heartfelt thanks to the good people around Cofer's Chapel for their kind and unbounded hospitality during this sitting of this Association.

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to Bros. Stone, Austin and Mitchell for their valued services and we invite them to meet with us again in near future.

Resolved, That we tender our heartfelt thanks to Sisters Moery and Smith for their services in regard to tent money.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

DEVOTIONAL.

The Committee on Devotional Exercises failed to hand in a written form of report, but here is their work as best we remember. Rev. G. H. Austin preached at 8:00 p. m. Wednesday; M. S. Crow preached at 11:00 a. m. Thursday; J. E. Hudgens preached at 8:00 p. m. Thursday; E. W. Stone preached at 11:00 a. m. Friday, and G. W. Mitchell preached at 8:00 p. m. Friday. All at Cofer's Chapel.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS.

We, your Committee on Petitions and Requests, beg leave to submit the following: That the ordination of Bro. L. B. H. Green, from Mt. Zion, and Bro. J. A. Beard, from Craighead, be deferred until Next Association.

WILLIE WALKER.

HENRY BINKLEY.

JOE GOWER.

This report was handed over to Ordaining Council.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

We, your Committee on Sunday School Work, would most respectfully submit the following report: Believing as we do and as is often said that the Sunday School is the nursery of the Church, where the children of early life are taught and their young minds and hearts impressed with wholesome Scriptural lessons tending to lead them to the thought that they are immortal beings, and that such impressions in Sunday School often brings abundant fruit in the early life, and further, statistics show that a very small percentage of persons who are brought up in Sunday School with due care are ever arraigned before the courts of the State on criminal charges, or are incar-

cerated in prison for crime, we would recommend that every church in the Cumberland Association make a great effort to organize Sunday Schools, and that *the parents not only send but go to Sunday School themselves* and show that the Sunday School is not merely a place of recreation, but that it is a place where they are to learn lessons for time and eternity, and God will bless the parents, the children, and the church.

R. M. LUTER.

J. H. OLIVER.

N. C. PARKER.

LITERATURE.

As the reading of literature has much to do with the forming of good character, we urge that our people guard their homes more carefully against the use of spurious and bad literature. In addition to the Bible we recommend religious books and papers known to be orthodox and elevating. We recommend the Christian Church and its Institutions by A. D. Williams, as a theological work for our ministers: Also two pamphlets, namely, "The Communion of Saints, Not a Communion of a Sect," and "Baptism, Its Modes, Object and Duty," will be found to be very strong arguments on these ordinances as believed by the Freewill Baptists. The above books can be obtained at the office of the *Messenger* at Owensville, Ind.

Realizing the urgent need of church papers being taken, read and used by our denomination, we recommend that *The Freewill Baptist*, published at Ayden, N. C., and the *Messenger*, published at Owensville, Ind., be endorsed as church papers, as the editors offer space in their columns for reports of our meetings, announcements, obituaries, letters, etc.

C. H. PICKLE.

E. S. PRUITT.

J. L. WELCH.

EDUCATION.

We, your committee, beg leave to submit the following report: In this progressive age of advancement we feel it our duty as an Association of the Freewill Baptist to rank with other denominations in the advancement of Education, therefore we deem it advisable for this body to take some action in the great work. We earnestly request that the candidates for Gospel ministry make every effort to obtain an English education. We furthermore request that this Association assist all worthy girls and boys and women and men in all efforts along this line.

We recommend that we become united with sister Associations in the advancement of education.

We further recommend that the Moderator of this Association appoint a committee of five to investigate and confer with sister Associations in regard to the erection of a school for the Free Baptist denomination in order to give our girls and boys, women and men, a better chance to advance the cause of Christ and our denomination.

We further state that it shall be the duty of this committee to correspond and confer with sister Associations and then report said correspondence and conferences to the Clerk of this Association in order to get a school move started.

G. W. FAMBROUGH.
MRS. H. P. SMITH.
BILLIE PROCTOR.

OBITUARIES.

We, your Committee on Obituaries, submit the following report: Dear Brethren—Since our last Association it has pleased our Heavenly Father to call one of our ordained ministers, Brother James Nickleson, to his reward. Our loss is His gain. The Lord knows best and we humbly bow in submission. We thank God in our hearts for His love and sympathy for us.

Whereas, death has claimed only a few of our members:

Resolved, That we tender to the relatives and friends our sympathy and direct them for comfort and peace to Him who is too good to do wrong and too wise to err.

A. D. DUNCAN.
H. P. Smith.
GEORGE HYDE.

FINANCE.

We, your committee on Finance, beg leave to make the following report: We received as follows for Minutes: Antioch, \$1.00; Bethel, \$3.00; Bethlehem, \$2.00; Cofer's Chapel, \$3.00; Craigfield, \$1.75; Cross Roads, 70c; Greenwood, \$1.00; Heads, \$3.00; Hickory Grove, 65c; Hopewell, 75c; Indian Mound, \$2.00; Miller's Chapel, \$1.30; Mt. Hermon, \$1.50; Mt. Pleasant, \$1.21; Mt. Zion, \$2.00; New hope, \$1.30; Oakwood, \$1.50; Oaklawn, \$2.50; Oakwood, \$1.00; Olivet, 50c; Paradise Ridge, \$1.00; Rock Spring, \$3.75; Shady Grove, 80c; Smith's Grove, \$1.00; Spring Hill, \$1.05. Total, \$39.26.

J. T. Newman.
A. HUDGENS.
J. E. SMITH.

(I received \$1.00 from Brandon's Chapel and 50 cents from Hurricane Chapel since the Association closed, making a total of \$40.76.—Clerk.)

TEMPERANCE.

We, your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to submit the following for your careful consideration: That whereas temperance is one of the vital questions that is agitating the minds of our people, and the time has come when all lovers of the Lord Jesus Christ should show their colors, therefore we, your committee, do most earnestly recommend that the Cumberland Association stand as a unit for the enforcement of the temperance laws as they now stand on the statute books of our fair State; and further, that we do earnestly beg our members to use every means in their power honestly and legitimately to suppress every vestage of the liquor traffic in any form within the borders of our fair State; and further in behalf of our children who must soon take our places on the stage of action, we favor the extension of our temperance laws so that the field of temperance may not be confined to our own State but that every vestage of the vile stuff sold as a beverage in the United States be suppressed and we have instead of State Wide Prohibition, United States Wide. We would further recommend that our ministers preach at least *one sermon on temperance during the ensuing year.*

DAVE DOUGLAS.

W. G. SULLIVAN.

W. W. DAVIS.

JNO. GOWER.

M. S. CROW.

MISSIONS.

We, your Committee on Missions, recommend and think the best thing to do would be to buy a tent, and that this Association appoint a board of three men as a Board of Managers, and shall employ a man to do such work as they think best, and that each preacher shall collect all the money he can and turn it over to the to the board, and they shall use it as they see proper, and that the Association be responsible for his support.

C. C. CAGLE.

H. P. SMITH.

W. M. ROGERS.

G. H. AUSTIN.

D. T. ARMSTRONG.

(This report was adopted and committee discharged, and then called back again and when put before the house the second time it was lost.—*Clerk.*)

STATE OF CHURCH.

We, your Committee on State of Church, submit the fol-

lowing: The general condition of our churches is good; there are, however, a few exceptions. We have a few churches which have had no pastors, and but very little ministerial help this year. We earnestly insist that our Home Missionary visit those churches and that any and all of our preachers assist as much as possible.

J. H. OLIVER.

D. T. ARMSTRONG.

M. S. CROW.

E. S. PRUETT.

W. M. ROGERS.

CHARACTER OF MINISTERS.

We, the committee, recommend that the Presbytery at this sitting appoint a committee of five deacons to be located three on north side of Cumberland River, (one in west, one in middle, and one in east) and two on South side, five in all. We recommend that this committee investigate the character of all ministers and report at the next sitting of Presbytery, and all found worthy be given cards of recommendation, cards good for one year.

Ministers coming from other Associations be requiren to preach twelve months in our Association before he gets a card of recommendation.

G. T. HARRIS.

CHARLEY DOWELL.

JOHN LAWRENCE.

W. R. SWIFT.

W. H. BINKLEY.

GROUPING OF CHURCHES.

We, the majority of your Standing Committee appointed last year, find that the churches cannot be grouped under our present Constitution. We recommend that the Association take such steps as they see proper in grouping the churches.

J. D. SULLIVAN.

H. P. SMITH.

H. E. MURPHEY.

The Association adjourned to meet with Mt. Zion, Cheat-ham county, Tenn., on Wednesday, before the first Sunday in October, 1912, at 10:00 a. m.

J. E. HUDGENS, MODERATOR,

MRS. H. P. SMITH, CLERK.

Annual Presbytery

The Annual Presbytery convened on 29th day of September at the close of Association. Presbytery was called to order by Moderator J. L. Welch, and J. H. Oliver as Clergy.

W. W. Davis was elected Moderator to take J. L. Welch's place, and J. H. Oliver was re-elected Clerk.

The following were appointed as Ordaining Council by Moderator: J. E. Hudgins, G. W. Fambrough, D. T. Armstrong, John Lawrence and J. L. Welch.

Report of Clerk received in regards to the credentials of J. E. Powers, G. E. Steppee, W. M. Brummit. Clerk demanded credentials and they failed to hand them in.

Report of Committee on Character of Ministers read and adopted according to Association.

G. W. Fambrough was elected Clerk and ordered to rewrite the credentials of J. H. Oliver and C. H. Pickle.

Ordaining Council made the following report:

Brother G. M. Pruitt was duly examined. We, your Council, recommend that he continue to study so he can stand a satisfactory examination.

Brother J. A. Beard was duly examined, and we would recommend that he continue to study that he may be prepared to meet the requirements of our Constitution and the belief of the Freewill Baptist Church.

Brother Houston Green was duly examined and we find him to be studying to prove himself worthy to defend the ministry, and that we would recommend him to study and preach as a Christian until he be able to defend the doctrine of our Faith.

J. E. HUDGINS.

D. L. ARMSTRONG.

J. L. WELCH.

J. R. LAWRENCE.

G. W. FAMBROUGH.

Adjourned to meet at the close of next Annual Association.

W. W. DAVIS, MODERATOR.

J. H. OLIVER, CLERK.

Deacons

Antioch—James Baker, W. R. Swift, R. V. Walker.

Bethel—G. W. Fambrough, W. E. Fambrough, W. J. Bobbit.

Bethlehem—W. H. Binkley, J. H. Felts, W. T. Sanders.

Brandon's Chapel—Not known.

Charity—No intelligence.

Cofer's Chapel—Jerry Sullivan, R. Manners, Edgar Parker, J. R. Parkeson.

Craigfield—J. D. Sullivan, J. A. Beard.

Cross Roads—George Murrel, Will Crow.

Greenwood—W. D. Dowell, C. T. Dowell.

Good Spring—No intelligence.

Harpeth Valley—No intelligence.

Heads—J. J. Gower, John Lawrence, R. R. Gower, H. J. Head.

Hickory Grove—V. N. Corben, A. J. Myatt.

Hopewell—J. G. Graham, J. T. Davison.

Hurricane Chapel—Not known.

Indian Mound—W. T. Vaughan, W. H. Oliver.

Maple Valley—No intelligence.

Miller's Chapel—H. T. Mayfield, W. J. Miller.

Mt. Hermon—E. P. Woods, W. J. Deavers.

Mt. Pleasant—C. C. Cagle, Charley Biggs.

Mt. Zion—J. T. Newman, G. T. Harris, A. Rediker, H. V. Abernathy.

New Hope—J. J. Felts, James Hicks.

Oak Grove—No intelligence.

Oakland—Joe Carter.

Oaklawn—Samuel Balthrop, Boss Neckelson.

Oakwood—Wm. W. Clinard, J. R. Mayo, S. R. Jackson.

Olivet—J. T. Allen, H. D. Elliott.

Paradise Ridge—No intelligence.

Pleasant Hill—No intelligence.

Rock Spring—Not known.

Scott's Chapel—No intelligence.

Shady Grove—Hardy Phelts, Bill Majors.

Smith's Grove—James Smith, Dick Smith.

Spring Hill—A. L. Lane, James Smiley.

Stony Point—J. E. Williams, C. W. Waynick.

Walnut Grove—No intelligence.

Reports of Ministers

A. D. DUNCAN.

I have 3 churches in charge; sermons preached, 197; conversions witnessed, 123. Received into churches, 32; Baptized, 24; miles traveled, 2,830; marriages solemnized, 1. Received from Indian Mound for 10 months, \$75.00; received from Olivet for 8 months, \$74.60; received from Scott's Chapel, \$40.00; received for work in Stone Association, \$30.00; received from Bethel Church, \$19.43; received as presents, \$13.00; received from other sources, \$53.00; total receipts, \$304.03.

A. D. DUNCAN.

W. M. ROGERS.

Eleven months work of 1911: Money received, \$782.03; miles traveled, 5,509; sermons preached, 250; conversions, 16. Most of my work has been on the streets.

W. M. ROGERS.

D. T. ARMSTRONG.

Head's Church—Received into the church, 3; baptized, 3; received for services, \$100.75. Oaklawn Church—Received into church, 15; baptized, 15; received for services, \$73.50. Bethel Church—Received into church, 8; baptized, 7; received for services, \$106.80. Rock Spring—Received none; baptized none; received for services, \$30.00. Churches in charge, 4; sermons preached, 150; prayers in homes, 43; homes visited unknown; miles traveled unknown; marriages solemnized, 2; funerals conducted, 12. My work is in very good condition. Received for services outside, \$25.50.

D. T. ARMSTRONG.

J. A. CLAXTON.

Oakwood Church—Received into church, 10; baptized, 3; received for services, \$104.00. Greenwood—Received into church, 11; baptized, 5; received for services, \$102.00. Hoperwell—Received into church, 6; baptized, 4; received for services, \$50.60. Churches in charge, 3; prayers in homes, 34; homes visited, 180; miles traveled, 1,204; funerals preached, 8. My work is in good condition.

J. A. CLAXTON.

W. G. SULLIVAN.

Churches in charge, 3; sermons preached unknown; conversions

sions witnessed, 12; received into church, 30; funerals conducted, 8; miles traveled, 1,050; received for services, \$35.05.

W. G. SULLIVAN.

J. R. ELLIOTT.

I haven't any churches in charge; my time has been given to evangelistic work and assisting pastors. Have been happy and blessed of God in the service. Sermons preached, 57; conversions witnessed, 18; received into church, 6; baptized, 4; received for services, \$20.00.

J. R. ELLIOTT.

J. W. AYERS.

I have'nt any churches in charge. Have preached around at different places filling appointments for others. Kept no account of work, only amount received, which is respectable.

J. W. AYRES.

J. H. OLIVER.

Churches in charge, 1; sermons preached, 60; funerals conducted, 1; conversions witnessed, 16; miles traveled, 550; amount received as follows: Pleasant Hill, \$7.00; Oakwood, \$9.45; Greenwood, \$20.10. Bro. George Harris, \$4.00; Smith's Grove, \$2.20; total, \$42.75.

J. H. OLIVER.

J. L. WELCH.

Churches in charge, 1; sermons preached, 9; prayer meetings conducted, 25; conversions witnessed, 25; received into church, 29; baptized, 15; funerals conducted, 13; marriages solemnized, 8; received from Cofer's Chapel, \$189.85; for assisting other pastors, \$50.70; total, \$240.55.

J. L. WELCH.

Report of Licentiates

G. M. PRUITT.

Sermons preached, 58; funerals conducted, 3; conversions witnessed, 25; miles traveled, 585.

G. M. PRUITT.

JOE GOWER.

Having no regular work and coming out of school in May, I have been doing what I could for the Master. Sermons preach-

ed, 22; prayer meetings conducted, 9; lectures delivered, 7; homes visited, 99; received for services, \$14.32. I hope to have regular work next year.

JOE GOWER.

L. A. BEARD.

Having no churches in charge, my time has been given in assisting pastors. Have been happy and blessed of God in the service. Conversions witnessed, 17; amount received, \$26.00.

L. A. BEARD.

Report of Home Missionary

E. S. PRUITT.

Sermons preached, 335; conversions witnessed, 538; received into church, 185; baptized, 102; miles traveled, 6,045; marriages solemnized, 2; funerals conducted, 3. Received from churches as Missionary money: Oakwood, \$7.40; Olivet, \$6.95; Craigfield, \$4.00; Pleasant Hill, \$4.25; Indian Mound, \$6.00; Hickory Grove, \$2.05; Mt. Zion, \$9.00; Mt. Pleasant, \$4.15; Shady Grove, \$5.20; Cofer's Chapel, paid by E. Parker, \$1.20. Revivals—Hillsdale, \$18.00; Big Rock, \$50.00; Olivet, \$49.85; Scott's Chapel, \$14.00; Hurricane Chapel, \$5.75; Pleasant Hill, \$10.00; Harpeth Valley, \$6.10; Shady Grove, \$25.00; Lillie's Bluff, \$45.00; Indian Mound, \$3.35. Work in Stone Association—Cookville, \$35.00; Allen's Chapel, \$25.00; New Harmony, \$50.00; Cane Creek, \$12.55; Free Union, \$38.00; Post Oak Shade, \$30.00; Curr's, \$40.00; Cumberland City, \$3.00; total, \$510.80.

E. S. PRUITT.

Report of Treasurer

To amount from last report.....	\$19 20
To sale of Discipline.....	15
To amount received from J. H. Oliver.....	6 38
To amount received from J. W. D. Shannon.....	90
Total amount in treasury.....	\$26 63

Respectfully submitted,

G. W. FAMBROUGH, Treasurer.

Letters From Sister Associations

TENNESSEE RIVER ASSOCIATION.

We the Freewill Baptist in Tennessee River Association send greetings to the Brethren composing the Cumberland Association. We send our beloved Brother G. W. Mitchell to represent our Tennessee River Association at Cumberland Association when convened with Cofer's Chapel, Nashville, Tenn., on Wednesday, before the first Sunday in October, 1911. The Tennessee River Association met with Pleasant Grove Church, Harden county, Tenn., on Thursday before third Sunday in September. Was represented by 16 churches, 12 ministers, total membership represented 707. We received two churches by petitionary letter and reinstated 3 run down churches. No report of church property was made. Our next Association will meet at South Green Hill Church, Lauderdale county, Alabama, six miles south of St. Joe, on Thursday before third Sunday in September, 1912. Any information desired may be had by corresponding with Rev. G. W. Mitchell, Florence, Ala.

REV. G. W. MITCHELL, Moderator
W. H. McKINNEY,

Clerk of Tennessee River Association.

NEW UNION ASSOCIATION.

We the Committee appointed by the New Union Association of United Freewill Baptist sendeth this friendly letter greeting the Cumberland Association of Freewill Baptist when convened with Cofer's Chapel Church, Nashville, Tenn., in October, 1911. Dear Brothers and Sisters—It is our hearty desire to be with you in your meeting and Godly deliberations, but sickness will not admit. Our prayers are with you. Our Association is small and weak. We desire to open up correspondence with you. Brethren we stand in need of help. We invite any of your preachers to come among us and preach for us. Our preachers are unable to carry on the work successfully. We have six preachers, six weak churches, all on the back ground decreasing instead of increasing. Some of our churches have not had a sermon this year. We have been unable to preach any. Brethren pray for us. Our Association meets next September, 1912.

ELDER M. CURTSE,
E. E. TERRELL,
Committee.

Liberty, Tenn.

Churches and Their Delegates

- Antioch—W. R. Swift, A. M. Wall.
Bethel—Mrs. W. S. Nicholson, J. E. Smith, J. I. Simmons, R. S. Nicholson.
Bethlehem—W. H. Binkley, J. R. Mason, Cleveland Harris, J. H. Harrington, Alternate.
Brandon's Chapel—J. B. Burke, W. P. Luton.
Charity—No intelligence.
Cofer's Chapel—George Pruitt, Mrs. E. S. Pruitt, Nancy Parker, Tennie Benton, Mary Weaver, Alternate.
Craigfield—W. S. Tidwell, Jerry Sullivan.
Cross Roads—O. B. Call, Arthur Work.
Good Spring—No intelligence.
Greenwood—Hattie Dowell, Beulah Nelson, Angeline Roney, Alternate.
Harpeth Valley—No intelligence.
Heads—G. W. Stack, H. E. Murphey, G. M. Hyde, Joe Gower, Alternate.
Hickory Grove—W. M. Murrel, J. Lyle, Alternate.
Hopewell—Clarence Thurman, S. T. Welch, L. B. Bowling.
Hurricane Chapel—J. W. Tummins.
Indian Mound—Mrs. C. A. Moery, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Smith.
Maple Valley—No intelligence.
Miller's Chapel—W. S. Simpson, J. H. Sutton.
Mt. Hermon—E. P. Wood, W. G. Deaver.
Mt. Pleasant—L. P. Abernathy, C. C. Cagle.
Mt. Zion—Joe C. Perry, Henry Binkley, D. N. Douglas, A. L. Binkley, Alternate.
New Hope—Arthur Harris, W. J. Culwell, Trice Ennis, Alt.
Oak Grove—No intelligence.
Oakland—A. A. Dickerson, A. V. Carney.
Oaklawn—W. H. Walker, Sister Williamson Walker.
Oakwood—R. P. Luter, W. W. Clinard, B. E. Harris, Alt.
Olivet—H. D. Elliott, J. T. Allen.
Paradise Ridge—No intelligence.
Pleasant Hill—No intelligence.
Rock Spring—John Nelson, W. D. Procter, J. B. Hagewood, Alt.
Scott's Chapel—No intelligence.
Shady Grove—J. A. Major, W. B. Felts, Della Pool.
Smith's Grove—J. M. Smith, Bob Phillips, Henry Abney, Alt.
Spring Hill—Lee Lain, Dave Smiley.
Stoney Point—Sister A. W. Williams.
Walnut Grove—No intelligence.

[illegible]

Addresses of Ministers

Armstrong, D. T., Thomasville, Tenn.
Ayers, J. W., Ashland City, Tenn.
Brake, J., Cumberland City, Tenn., R. 1.
Brown, W. A., McClean Station, Nashville, Tenn., R. 7.
Boyte, G. W., Joelton, Tenn.
Castile, W. M., Bumpus Mills, Tenn.
Chadwick, J. A., Dickson, Tenn.
Claxton, J. A., 1415 Delta ave., Nashville, Tenn.
Crow, M. S., Charlotte, Tenn., R. 2.
Davis, W. W., Ashland City.
Donnegan, T. J., Dickson, Tenn., R. 5.
Duncan, A. D., 1624 Arthur ave., N. Nashville, Tenn.
Elliott, J. R., Hickory Point, Tenn.
Free, E. M., Bumpus Mills, Tenn.
Gardner, J. W., 12th ave. N., Nashville, Tenn.
Hazlewood, Thos., Jordonnia, Tenn.
Holt, S. B. B., Jordonnia, Tenn.
Horner, J. N., Dickson, Tenn.
Haliburton, W. D., Cumberland City, Tenn.
Hudgens, J. E., Ashland City, Tenn., R. 1.
Hunt, G. W., Nashville, Tenn.
Miles, E. T., Pardue, Tenn.
Myatt, S. A., Dickson, Tenn.
Oliver, J. H., Indian Mound, Tenn.
Pickle, C. H., White's Creek, Tenn.
Pruitt, E. S., Beuna Vista st. N., Nashville, Tenn.
Rogers, W. M., 1715 Hamburg st., Nashville, Tenn.
Sullivan, W. G., Jingo, Tenn., R. 2.
Wagoner, W. B., Erin, Tenn.
Welch, J. L., 1508 N. 12th ave., Nashville, Tenn.

LICENTIATES.

Beard, L. A., Bon Aqua, Tenn., R. 1.
Burgess, A. J., Tennessee City, Tenn.
Gower, Joe, Cedar Hill, Tenn., R. 3.
Hagewood, W. T., Hamble, Tenn.
Pruitt, G. M., North Nashville, Tenn., R. 6
Green, L. B. H., Joelton, Tenn.

Articles of Faith

ARTICLE 1. We believe in one true and living God, the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost.

ART. 2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old Testament are the words of Divine Inspiration, given to Abraham's children; and that the New Testament contains the only proper rules for the faith of the Christian churches.

ART. 3. We believe in the depravity of man, and man's inability to recover himself from his fallen condition without a Divine Mediator.

ART. 4. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, according to the Scriptures, suffered and died upon the cross, and thereby made full atonement for every human being; and by His obedient life, satisfactory death and triumphant resurrection and glorious ascension, ever advocating at His Father's throne, hath brought in everlasting salvation for every sinner that will repent, believe and obey His word.

ART. 5. We believe that the faithful Christian will never fall from Grace; notwithstanding we believe in the free moral agency of man after justification, and there is a possible danger of falling into sin and being finally lost.

ART. 6. We believe according to the Scriptures: Paul's letter to the Hebrews, 6th Chapter, 1st to 7th verses, that after a man has been partaker of the Holy Ghost, if he shall fall from grace, it is impossible to ever renew him again unto repentance, or restore him again unto the favor of God.

ART. 7. We believe Baptism and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and the washing of the saint's feet, are all ordinances ordained and instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects, and the proper mode of baptism is immersion; and that it is the duty of believers to attend these ordinances.

ART. 8. We believe in the general judgment and the joys of the righteous, and that the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

ART. 9. We believe, according to the Scriptures: 1st Cor. 10: 16, that each individual, having been induced into the Kingdom of Christ by an operative influence of the Holy Ghost, and having faith to exercise the free dictations of his own conscience, is in communion with saints.

ART. 10. We believe in the justification of infants by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, in a passive state and thereby adopting them heirs of His Kingdom.

Government and Constitution

ARTICLE 1. Each church in this Association shall be entitled to one delegate, and one additional delegate for every one hundred members, or fraction thereof.

2. In the letter from each church shall be expressed the number received by experience, letter, recommendation, restoration, number dismissed by letter, excluded, died since last Association, and the total number enrolled. Also give name of present pastor and one called for ensuing year, names of deacons and their addresses, names of Sunday School Superintendent and Secretary and addresses, enrollment of Sunday School, and also amount collected since last Association, and amount paid out to pastor, to missionary, to Minutes, and to any other expenses may have had, and amount left in treasury.

3. This Association shall possess no power to infringe on the inherent right of churches.

4. This Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper code of rules, which they are authorized to establish for themselves.

5. They may elect a Moderator, Secretary and Treasurer from among themselves, and they shall hold their offices until their successors are elected.

6. New churches may be received into the union, who shall petition by letter or delegate, if they have been regularly organized upon a profession of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and are walking according to the gospel order.

7. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association except withdrawn by consent.

8. This Association shall furnish each church with minutes of their proceedings, in proportion to the amount of money sent by each church; and in order to enable the Association to print their minutes, it is expected that each church will send up such sums of money as they think proper, and when received shall be placed in the hands of a trustee appointed for that purpose, and may be disbursed by order of the Association.

9. For the purpose of ordaining ministers of the gospel and deacons who shall come with recommendations from their churches, and try all ordained members for unchristian conduct, there shall be an annual Presbytery, which shall convene at the close of the Association at the same time and place. Said Presbytery shall consist of ordained members present and they shall elect a Moderator and Clerk from among themselves for the time being, who shall hold their offices until their successors are elected. It shall be the duty of said Presbytery to examine all applicants for ordination sent up with the recommendations from their churches composing this Association; if found competent, shall ordain and set them apart for the work by prayer and laying on of hands. Said Presbytery shall have full power to try all ordained members for unchristian conduct, and on testimony their decision shall be valid.

10. It shall be the duty of each minister who shall organize a church to ordain deacons for the same. Also, his duty to ordain deacons where a vacancy occurs in his charge.

11. No person shall be ordained until he can fill the requirements of Paul's letter to Timothy, Chapter III, and this shall be tested by the Presbytery. Said Presbytery shall have full power to propound Scriptural questions as they see proper, and all candidates shall be required to answer them satisfactorily.

12. This Association may exclude from its body any church that walks disorderly or teaches heresy.

13. All questions coming before this Association shall be determined by a majority, except excluded churches, which shall receive the concurrence of two-thirds.

14. Representatives from five churches shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and no business shall be transacted without a quorum.

15. The minutes of this Association shall be read before

them and corrected, if need be, and signed by the Moderator and attested by the Clerk.

16. This Association may adjourn at any time and place it may think proper, so as to confine it among the churches composing the same.

17. Amendments may be made to this form of government at any time by a majority of the members present composing the Association voting in behalf of the amendment.

18. When this Association shall have convened, it is the privilege of all ordained members belonging to the Cumberland Association of Freewill Baptists to sit in council with us and propose resolutions coming before this body as though they were delegated by the church.

Rules of Decorum

This Association shall be opened by singing and prayer. Only one person shall speak at a time. All addresses made by the members shall be made to the Moderator, and the person addressing shall arise to his feet.

The brother shall not be interrupted during his speech by any one except the Moderator, except he violates order. The person thus speaking shall strictly confine himself to the subject in debate, nor cast any personal reflections toward any member of this body who has spoken previously.

No person shall be allowed to speak more than three times on any one subject, without leave of a majority of the Association.

No person shall laugh or whisper in time of public speaking.

No member shall absent himself without leave from the Association. Members shall use the word "brother" or "brethren" in all debates.

The names of the members of this body shall be enrolled by the Clerk, and called over as often as necessary, provided a call be made by a member of the Association.

No member shall speak longer than fifteen minutes at any time without leave of the Moderator.

Any member who shall wilfully and knowingly violate any

of these rules, shall be reported by the Moderator and be subject to the censure of the Association.

Adopted in Council, this Saturday before the first Lord's day in October, 1867, as a standing decorum, though subject to revision by a majority of members voting for revision.

**The Gower Family and Historical Data of the
Cumberland Association of Free
Will Baptists**

(ASHLAND CITY TIMES AND THE ROBERTSON COUNTY NEWS.)

The Gower family from which two of the most prominent members of the Freewill Christian Baptist Church in Middle Tennessee springs, namely, Wilson L. Gower and son, James W. Gower, were of Scotch-Irish decent, that one noble race of people from which so many illustrious men and women have sprung. They emigrated to North Carolina in Colonial days, sometime during the latter half of the 18th century, from England. We give a sketch of their emigrating and settling in Tennessee that we find in a history of "Methodism in Tennessee," by Dr. McFerrin.

"Abbel Gower came to Tennessee in 1778 with the family of Gen. Robertson. He had a wife, five sons and four daughters. One son was shot and killed on the way by the Indians. A daughter was wounded but recovered. Three of the brothers, Elisha, Russell, and William professed religion and united with the Methodist in 1801. They all became preachers within one year after their conversion. Abel Gower and his son Elisha, were murdered by the Indians a few years after they settled in Tennessee, (which settlement was made where Nashville now stands. Abel Gower was grandfather of Wilson L.) They were killed while bringing corn from the mouth of Stone River to Nashville. Russell Gower settled on the Cumberland River at what is now known as Gower's Island. He served the church as a local preacher for thirty years. Elisha also settled on the Cumberland River north side of Gower's Island. He continued to labor as a local preacher for forty years. These

brothers both brought up large families, all of whom became members of the Methodist church. One of Russell's sons is now a Baptist preacher. (This was written during the fifties and this son was Wilson L.) William Gower settled on the south side of the Cumberland not far from the island about nine miles from Nashville, in the year 1800. He was born on the 6th of October, 1776. Twenty-four years after, was married to Charlotte Rieves, a niece of Mrs. Gen. Robertson's. Soon after his conversion he began to exhort, indeed, to call sinners to repentance, and was immediately licensed. In a short space of time, as has been seen, he was licensed to preach and continued so half a century to toil as a minister of Christ. He died on the 11th of October, 1851. Mr. Gower's house was a preaching place for forty years. There is now a church on his land known as Gower's Chapel. There has been a church organized for more than a half century in that neighborhood. Some of the descendants of this venerable man are pillars in the church to this day. Wilson L. Gower was born in Davidson county, near Gower's Island, November 19th, 1793. His father, Russell Gower, emigrated from North Carolina in 1778 and located where Nashville now stands when there was nothing there but a pioneer fort. He was an active minister in the Freewill Baptist Church for fifty years. He organized the following churches, all of which still stand as a monument to his memory except one: Charity, Heads, Mt. Zion, Good Spring, Bethlehem, Liberty, and Rock Springs. He first united with Concord Association, composed of Robertson, Wilson, Stewart and Davidson counties. About 1838, there arose a dissension in the Association about the Institution of the Sacrament of the "Lord's Supper." The majority of members contending for restricted or church communion, whereupon Wilson L. was joined in the fight against close communion by Rev. Robert Heaton, who lived for many years and died at Ashland City, where Capt. J. J. Lenox now lives. His sainted dust sleeps in Forest Hill Cemetery at that place. Not being able to conscientiously subscribe to the tenet of close communion they presented a petition asking permission to organize, which was granted, and in 1841 they organized an Association that became known as the "Separate Baptist," for having separated from the Concord Association. This Association was composed of

the following churches: Heads, Good Springs, Lowes, Robertson county; Blue Springs, Charity, Old Liberty, Old Zion, Davidson county; Sullivan in Wilson county, and Liberty in Stewart county. About 1851 they added to their name "Freewill" and were known as "Freewill Separate Baptists." Wilson Gower was a mighty man in the Scriptures in his day. While his literary attainment was limited, he possessed large common sense, and sound piety, good judgment, and a burning zeal for the salvation of souls and the promotion of "God's Kingdom" in the earth. This coupled with considerable native ability and a mind very well trained in theology, and entirely orthodox, made him one of the leading men of the connection of his time. He was a fearless and able champion of the Liberal Baptist cause. Thus full of years and a life ripe with achievements for the Master's, he died in the faith. But his works still follow him and no doubt many will rise up in the "Great Day" and call him blessed. He fell asleep on October 20th, 1865.

His son, James W. Gower, was born August 30th, 1821, professed faith in Christ at Head's Church in 1855, and was soon after licensed to preach by the church, which holy calling he continued to obey until his death in all about 31 years.

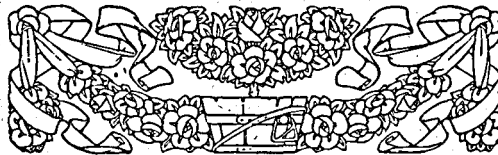
He married at an early age and became the father of ten children—seven boys and three girls, all of whom are living except one, all members of the Freewill Baptist Church except one, and all have grown up and raised ordinarily large families, and all live in the 14th civil district of Robertson county, except two, John and Mrs. Buck Nickols, who live near Port Royal in Montgomery county. Some years after the Civil War, the word "Separate" was dropped from the name and they were known again as "Freewill Baptist."

A sketch of the Cumberland Association would not be in anywise complete without the mention of the names and achievements of Rev. Rose, George and Stewart and many other Baptist worthies who have gone to their rewards long before this humble scribe became a member of the Association. Those veterans of the cross did a mighty work for God as an uplifting, civilizing and soul-saving power in the land, in those "good old days" of camp-meetings and brush arbors, when people went to church to worship God. But those methods have ceased to be practical and effective and our beloved connection must

catch the spirit of progress and missions and fall in line with other evangelical denominations and assist in the great work of bringing the world to Christ. Some few years since the "Stone Association of Christian Baptist" (lying east of the Cumberland Association) desired through their delegates to unite the two Associations, and not being willing to give up their name, and the Cumberland not being willing, the two were united, making both Associations the "Freewill Christian Baptist Church of Christ," and thus our name was changed again. While some of the brethren are very zealous for the Traditions of the Elders, I contend we are nothing but Freewill Baptist. There are fourteen Associations and yearly meetings in Tennessee, representing a membership of possibly from 30,000 to 40,000, who are virtually a unit on doctrine and policy, but the thing we so much need is organic union. The Cumberland Association has grown until it includes 32 churches and 28 ministers. Its churches are situated in Cheatham, Robertson, Montgomery, Stewart, Dickson, Houston and Humphreys counties. Some of the brethren of the Association think it should be divided, but we think not yet, but pray to send us consecrated talent. We should have a publishing interest and theological school at Ashland City. It is not a matter of whether such a thing is practical or not but will we establish and sustain such an enterprise. Ashland is in the heart of the Association, with all the natural elements necessary for the success of such an enterprise, and there are enough men in the bounds of the Association with means who belong to the denominations to make it a success.

Respectfully,

G. V. FREY.



Notice

I will have ready by first of July printed forms of Church Letter, and will endeavor to send each church a form, but in case you don't receive a form please write me at Indian Mound and your church will receive a form before Association meets. Will also have blank forms for ministers to make their reports on and will be pleased to send a form to each minister in our Association.

RENA SMITH, Clerk, or
MRS. H. P. SMITH,
Indian Mound, Tenn.

