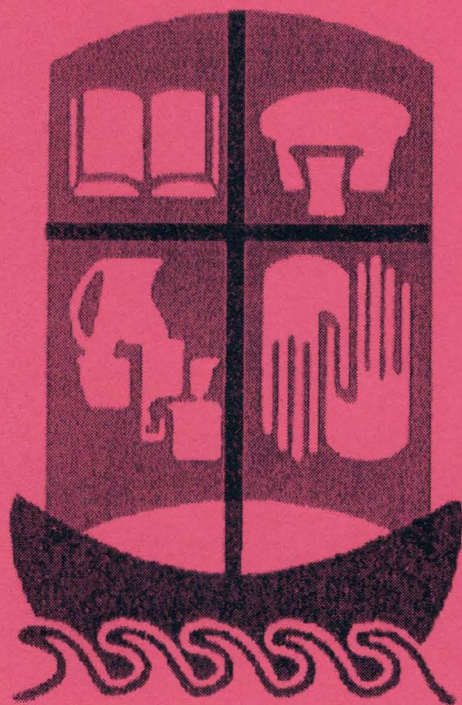
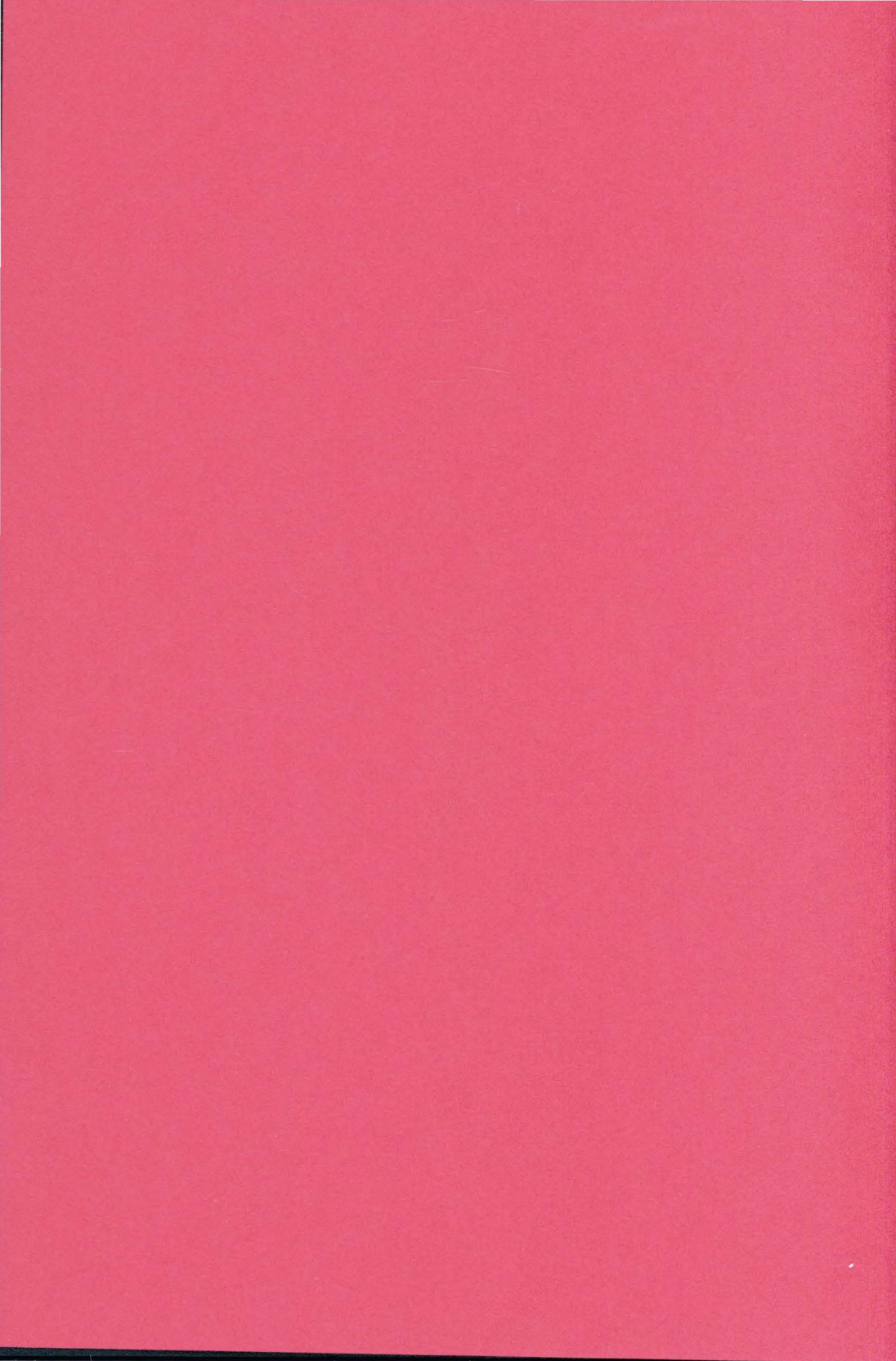
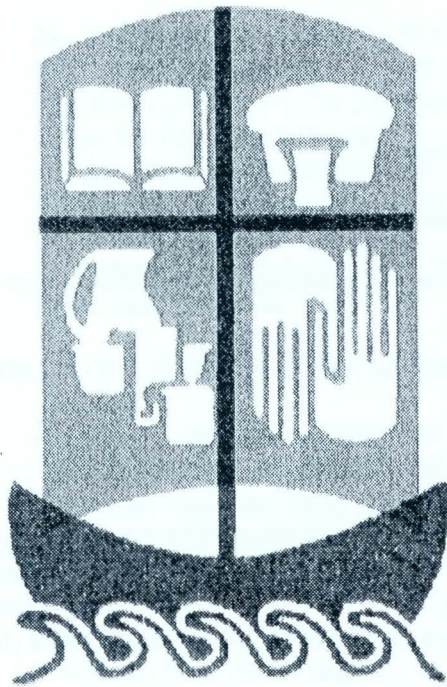

*East Alabama Association
of
Free Will Baptists*



Annual Minutes of 1996-98



*East Alabama Association
of
Free Will Baptists*



Annual Minutes of 1996-98

Annual Minutes 1996-1997

ORDER OF BUSINESS OF QUARTERLY OR YEARLY ASSOCIATION

1. The body called to order by the Clerk, if present, if not, the Assistant Clerk, if he be present, if not, the body may select some other suitable member to act as clerk.
2. Call for corresponding letters.
3. Invite visiting brethren to seat.
4. Appoint committees.
5. Morning Message.
6. Adjourn for lunch.
7. Call for committee report.
8. Call for miscellaneous or new business.
9. Election of officers at yearly association and appointing time and place for quarterly meeting.
10. Adjournment.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Nov. 2, 1996 - First Free Will Baptist - Montgomery
Feb. 8, 1997 - St. Mark Free Will Baptist - Phenix City
May 10, 1997 - First Free Will Baptist - Opelika
August 9, 1997 - Unity Free Will Baptist - Sylacauga

**All East Alabama Meetings begin at 10:00 Central, 11:00 EST.
The lunch break should be scheduled for 11:30 Central, 12:30 EST.**

OFFICERS FOR YEAR 1996-1997

<u>Moderator:</u>	Rev. Charles Corley (334) 244-2124 5333 Millwood Rd., Montgomery, AL 36109
<u>Asst. Moderator:</u>	Bro. Donnie Blackmon (205) 245 - 6439 507 Morris Ave., Sylacauga, AL 35150
<u>Clerk:</u>	Sis. Martha Caswell (334) 745 - 7597 285 Lee Rd. 166, Opelika, AL 36804
<u>Asst. Clerk:</u>	Sis. Lynda Caswell (334) 749-5283 101 Lee Rd. 759, Opelika, AL 36804
<u>Mission Fund Treas:</u>	Bro. Donnie Blackmon (see Asst. Moderator)

ORDINATION COUNCIL

5 year:	Bro. Robert Caswell (334) 745-7597 285 Lee Rd. 166, Opelika, AL 36804
4 year:	Rev. Henry Shellman (334) 297-5466 40 Lee Rd. 432 Smith Station, AL
3 year:	Rev. Charles Allen (334) 887-9021 240 Lee Rd. 191, Auburn, AL 36830
2 year:	Rev. Donald Grice (205) 245-4520 1015 Magnolia Dr., Sylacauga, AL 35105
1 year:	Bro. Donnie Blackmon (see above)

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

5 year:	Bro. Robin Caswell (334) 749-5283 101 Lee Rd. 759 Opelika, AL 36804
4 year:	Rev. Henry Shellman (334) 297-5466 40 Lee Rd. 432 Smith Station, AL
3 year:	Bro. Preston Hinton n/a
2 year:	Bro. Roger Price (205) 378 - 7611 216 Moore St., Childersburg, AL 35044
1 year:	Bro. Art Richards (334) 745-4236 2305 Third Ave., Opelika, AL 36805

**MEMBER OF
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TO CHILDRENS HOME
(elected in odd year)**

Bro. Donnie Blackmon

**MEMBER OF GENERAL
BOARD OF ALABAMA STATE
ASSOCIATION
(elected in even year)**

Rev. Donald Grice

November 2, 1996, First Free Will Baptist of Montgomery

The meeting was opened with congregational singing and a welcome by Rev. Charles Corley, moderator. The delegates were seated and visiting ministers recognized.

Rev. Trenton Johnston, pastor of Faith FWB church was introduced as guest speaker. His text was taken from John 15: 1-6 and "Church Unity" was the subject. He said that association unity is important, so why are so many churches are coming out of associations. Denominations are harder buy many are still connected to the true vine. We are clean by the Word, staying alive by staying connected to Christ, by abiding in the Word. The sap in the vine is our strength. The Word flows to give us strength. Christ left us but he gave us the Holy Spirit as our Comforter and Guide. Unity springs to life between churches in singings, revival, special programs, etc. Early churches had all things common. The churches in need should be supported by those that have. Most become self-supported but regardless of how we prosper, we cannot support ourselves without the vine. If a fungus gets in the vine it will destroy the plant unless its pruned out and stopped. Our churches have to be kept clean. Abide in the Word, in Christ, in the church, and God will support us. God makes it personal in verse 6. If a man doesn't abide in him he is cast forth. An invitation was sung. Rev. Corley led in prayer. A love offering for \$35.00 was taken up for the speaker.

EAA Mission report was given by Bro. Donnie Blackmon. He quoted II Corinthians 8:12.

Mission Fund Report:

7/31/96	Balance Forward	\$111.86
9/3/96	Reimbursement for serv.chg.	\$ 10.96
9/3/96	Quarter folders	\$200.00
9/3/96	Churches	\$ 30.00
10/31/96	New Balance	\$352.82

This report was accepted as read. It was moved to table the discussion concerning where funds will go until the next business meeting.

The afternoon session opened with the song, "*Where the Soul Never Dies*" led by Sis. Peggy Miller.

Business and Finance Report:

<u>Church</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Ch. Home</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Bd of CE</u>
Faith FWB	45.00	-	10.00	10.00
1st Montgomery	45.00	25.00	10.00	10.00
1st Opelika	45.00	-	-	-
St. Mark	45.00	45.00	-	-
Unity	45.00	35.00	-	-
Totals	\$ 225.00	\$105.00	\$20.00	\$20.00

It was recommended by the board to send \$125.00 to the FWB Children's Home for Christmas. It was seconded and carried.

The Ordination Council met and moved to accept Rev. Trenton Johnston, pastor of Faith FWB Church in to full fellowship with EAA.

Old Business: EAA Mission Fund to be allotted to a missionary each business session by vote of 2/3 present, leaving \$111.00 in the fund as a balance. This was approved by 2/3 of those present.

New Business: It was moved and carried to send \$200.00 to Rev. Len Blanchard in New Mexico.

Children's Home Report: Bro. Donnie Blackmon

We now have 32 children with 3 newcomers and are expecting 2 more from Atlanta. There's a lot of sickness among the staff. Please pray for them. The January 1997 Contact will feature the Children's Home and will give it some national coverage. There is a farmer in the area who raises around \$30,000 for the Home. He is working with another farmer and will name the Home in his will. A lady in Mississippi recently passed away and provided some in her will for the Home. Bro. Levy met 2 of our senators about helping our Home. Howell Heflin wasn't interested but Mr. Tom Bevil plans to help in some way. Pray that we can vacate old buildings as soon as possible as we work on the new cottages. The Health and Safety Inspection is coming up for license to operate the next two years. Please pray about this. Mrs. Wilkerson was presented with a plaque to posthumously honor Mr. Woodrow Wilkerson for his faithfulness to the Board over the years. One cottage is completed and occupied. Two others are under construction. Anyone interested to work or donate materials are asked to contact Bro. Levy. There is a need of about 48,000 brick. Please pray for all the needs and for workers.

It was approved for the Christian Board of Education in December 1996 to decide on the future of our youth rallies.

First FWB of Opelika took home the attendance banner for the quarter.

Recommendation from Faith FWB to use the older association letter forms because of more information contained therein and in hopes of more unity between the churches. It was moved and carried to leave it to the discretion of the clerks as to which letter to send for the Quarterly reports as long as correct information reached the EAA, state, and national association.

The State Association will be held at Dothan, First FWB Church in Nov. 1996

The assembly gave the host church a rising vote of thanks for their wonderful hospitality and then was dismissed in prayer by Bro. Danny Ryals.

February 8, 1997, St. Mark Free Will Baptist

The meeting opened with *Sunlight* led by Bro. Preston Hinton. Prayer was led by Rev. Trenton Johnston. The meeting was called to order by the clerk. Standing delegates were seated. Minutes were read and approved. Delegates were seated.

First FWB - Opelika

Standing Delegates: Rev. Henry Shellman, Rev. Charles Allen, Otis Lynn

Delegates: Barbara Norrell, Jackie Hearn, Jimmy Nelson, Belinda Nelson, Nancy Williams, Janet Deshong.

Alternates: Lora Cagle, Wayne Williams.

Unity FWB - Sylacauga

Standing Delegates: Rev. Donald Grice, Rev. Curtis Sewell, Donnie Blackmon

Delegates: Tinsey Lightsey, Alice Eddings, Reva Brannon, Frances Blackmon, Pat Price, Roger Price, Juanita Sharpe.

Alternates: Ray Lightsey, Carl Thein

First FWB - Montgomery

Virginia Tatum, Peggy Miller, Maggie Barrett, Lois Hibbs

Faith FWB - Opelika

Standing Delegates: Rev. Trenton Johnston, Robert Caswell, Robin Caswell

Delegates: Dale Sheldon, Sharron Sheldon, Pearline James, Toby James, Barbara Johnston, Junior Langston

St. Mark FWB - Phenix City

Preston Hinton, Lazelle Brown, Paula Ryals, Sandra Hinton, Blanche Walker, Levis Barre

The Business and Finance Committee was appointed as follows: Sis. Lora Cagle, Frances Blackmon, Peggy Miller, Paula Ryals and Bro. Dale Sheldon

The Children's Home report was given by Bro. Donnie Blackmon. It was moved, seconded, and carried to accept the report as read.

Rev. Danny Ryals welcomed all to St. Mark Church. The special, "*No More Tears*" was sung by Prestina Hinton, and Sis. Patricia Harris sang, "*You Can't Ask Too Much of My God*".

The Rev. Richard Cordell from the state Promotional Office was the guest speaker for the morning message. His text was taken from James 4:13, 14 and Phillipians 1:21. We work, buy, and sell to get gain....

Prayer and invitation was led by Rev. Cordell. Before dismissing he talked about "The Digest" and the Promotional Office and asked for support. An offering of \$97.45 was taken up for the speaker.

Afternoon Session

The afternoon session opened with “*Gloryland Way*” and “*I’ll Fly Away*” led by Bro. Hinton. Sis. Frances Blackmon sang a special, “*I’d Rather Have Jesus*”.

Business and Finance Report:

<u>Church</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Ch. Home</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Bd of CE</u>
Faith FWB	45.00	-	10.00	10.00
1st Montgomery	45.00	25.00	10.00	10.00
1st Opelika	45.00	-	-	-
St. Mark	45.00	-	-	-
Unity	45.00	35.00	-	-
Totals	\$ 225.00	\$60.00	\$20.00	\$20.00

It was moved, seconded and carried to give \$125.00 to the building fund for the Children’s Home.

The Ordination Council met and recommended Bro. Dale Sheldon to be licensed and under the watchcare of Faith FWB church for the next year.

The East Alabama Missions Report was given by Bro. Donnie Blackmon. He asked us to remember to fill up the quarter folders and turn them in each quarter. The balance in the Missions account is now \$232.82. This report was moved and carried as read. It was moved to send \$121.82 to Rev. Fred Jones at Prattville for their building fund. This was carried.

A love offering was taken for the clerks for \$32.25. The attendance banner went to 1st FWB of Opelika with 23 in attendance. The next Ladies’ Auxiliary meeting will be held at Unity Church on April 5, 1997 at 9:30 A.M.

Prayer requests were made. It was moved and seconded to adjourn. Rev. Ryals dismissed in prayer.

May 10, 1997, First Free Will Baptist Church, Opelika, AL

The meeting opened with “*Heaven’s Jubilee*”. The meeting was called to order by the clerk, Sis. Martha Caswell. Rev. Henry Shellman welcomed all of the churches. The Moderator, Rev. Charles Corley, recognized the visitors then delegates were seated as follows:

First FWB - Opelika

Standing Delegates: Rev. Henry Shellman, Rev. Charles Allen, Otis Lynn.

Delegates: Mary Williams, Barbara Norrell, Jackie Hearn, Belinda Nelson, Doris Ford, Janet Deshong.

Alternates: Louise Richards, Art Richards.

Unity FWB - Sylacauga

Standing Delegates: Rev. Donald Grice, Rev. Curtis Sewell, Donnie Blackmon

Delegates: Alice Eddings, Reva Brannon, Frances Blackmon, Eleanor Moore, Nancy Hudgins, Alice Johnson, John Henry Johnson.

Alternates: Billy Liner.

First FWB - Montgomery

Lura Corley, Virginia Tatum, Maggie Barrett.

Alternate: Lois Hibbs.

Faith FWB - Opelika

Standing Delegates: Robert Caswell, Robin Caswell.

Delegates: Dale Sheldon, Sharron Sheldon, Pearline James, Toby James, John Hamilton, Deborah Prickett.

Alternates: Martha Caswell, Lynda Caswell.

St. Mark FWB - Phenix City

Standing Delegates: Rev. Danny Ryals.

Delegates: Preston Hinton, Sandra Hinton, Blanche Walker, Levis Barre, Virginia Elvington, Ken Harris.

Minutes were read by the clerk and accepted as read.

The Business and Finance Committee was appointed as follows: Virginia Tatum, Alice Eddings, Lynda Caswell, Barbara Norrell, and Ken Harris.

The Children's Home report was given by Bro. Donnie Blackmon. The Home has had a young man to graduate this year and will stay on at the home. The Sherrif's office gave the Home a plaque in honor of their caring. The Home is putting out a leaflet series entitled, "Not My Kids". This is aimed toward parents to help them recognize danger signs in their children. Two house parents left the home due to physical burnout. This was a husband and wife team. Please pray for all of the workers. One of the board members will leave and help as houseparent. The Home purchased a van at a good price. New cottages are being filled. The Offices are still in the old building. The dedication for the new building went well. Water lines under the house are in bad shape. The Home has 19 kids at this time. It was moved, seconded, and carried to accept the report as read.

The congregation took a twenty minute break to allow the Ordination Council to examine Rev. Wayne Prickett of Faith Free Will Baptist Church, and Chaplain Terry Austin of St. Mark Free Will Baptist Church.

The congregation was called to order again by Rev. Charles Corley. Sis. Frances Blackmon sang a special, "Come Spring".

Rev. Wayne Prickett, was introduced as the guest speaker. His text was taken from Matt. 7:26, 27 - A Good Foundation. He spoke of how to dig deeper for a solid foundation. He reminded us that every man called of God has not been called to preach. Isaiah 28:16... Take your time and let God lead. He that believeth shall not

haste. "Haste makes waste". I Cor. 10:3-5, In the wilderness is where you will end up, with God not pleased. We need to take down our spiritual umbrellas. A love offering of \$60.36 was taken up for the speaker. We dismissed in prayer for lunch.

The Afternoon Session

The afternoon session opened with a special song by Sis. Frances Blackmon, "Going Home".

Business and Finance Report:

	<u>Church Fees</u>	<u>Ch. Home</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Bd of CE</u>
Faith FWB	45.00	-	10.00	10.00
1st Montgomery	45.00	25.00	10.00	10.00
1st Opelika	45.00	-	-	-
St. Mark	45.00	-	-	-
Unity	45.00	35.00	-	-
Totals	\$ 225.00	\$60.00	\$20.00	\$20.00

Continue to bring in your quarter folders. Rev. Len Blanchard is in desperate need of financial help. Please continue to support his ministry. It was moved, seconded, and carried to accept this report as read.

The Ordination Council met and recommended Rev. Wayne Prickett to be reinstated. This was moved and carried. Chaplain Terry Austin was recommended to be accepted into the East Alabama Association with full rights and privileges of an ordained minister pending a letter from the Randall Association of North Carolina. This was moved and accepted.

The Christian Board of Education did not meet.

The East Alabama Missions Report was given by Bro. Donnie Blackmon. He asked us to remember to fill up the quarter folders and turn them in each quarter. The balance in the Missions account for February, March, and April was \$232.82. Paid out to Bro. Fred Jones was \$121.82. This leaves a balance of \$111.00. Quarter folders paid in for this quarter was \$45.50, East Alabama Assoc. - \$20.00. This leaves a balance as of April 30, 1997, of \$176.50. This report was moved and accepted as read.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Bro. Len Blanchard asked for financial help. It was moved, seconded, and carried to send \$100.00 from the mission fund.

Faith FWB was awarded the attendance banner with 21 in attendance. The moderator asked for a rising vote of thanks for the host church.

The East Alabama Association experienced its best attendance in some time this year. Continue the good work! An offering of \$12.00 was taken up for the clerks. The pastor of St. James FWB Church has had a heart attack. Please pray for Rev. Donnie Cherry's recovery. The conference closed in prayer led by Rev. Shellman.

August 9, 1997, Unity Free Will Baptist, Sylacauga, Alabama

The meeting opened with "*Love Lifted Me*", led by Bro. Ricky Pessensky with Sis. Martha Caswell playing piano. Prayer was led by Rev. Charles Corley. The meeting was called to order by the clerk. The Rev. Eugene Howard from Cahaba District was welcomed. Standing delegates were recognized. Minutes were read and accepted. Delegates were seated and committees appointed as follows:

Business and Finance Committee - Levon DeLee, Bill Danzey, Virginia Tatum, and Frances Blackmon.

Resolutions Committee: Lucius Brown, Janet Deshong, Maggie Barrett, and Ricky Pessensky.

The Children's Home Report was given by Bro. Donnie Blackmon. The Home celebrated its 50th anniversary. It has 25 children at this time. This report was accepted.

Sis. Dee Moore reported two answered prayers of healing.

A special song, "*Tears Will Never Stain the Streets of that City*" was sung by Sis. Shirley Grice and Sis. Charlotte Pessensky. The congregational sang "*I Would Not Be Denied*".

Rev. Danny Ryals gave a report from the National meeting.

Rev. Donald Grice gave the welcome and introduced the guest speaker, Rev. Eugene Howard. His topic was "Preaching the Holy Word of God. II Tim 4: 1-5. Paul instructs to preach the Word. Rom. 10: 8-18, The Word is nigh. "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." Hollywood has invaded our homes and we have put the Word on a shelf and have forgotten about it. Take up the cross and go forward. We need purging and pruning so we can go forth. Col. 1:23 "Abide, continue grounded in the faith. He closed the sermon with prayer.

The offering was \$66.59.

The congregation was dismissed by Rev. Ryals after asking the Lord's blessing over the lunch.

Afternoon Session:

A congregational song was led by Bro. Ricky with Sis Deborah Prickett at the piano. Sis Charlotte Pessensky sang "*The Hand of the Lord*," as a special.

The Business and Finance Report was given by Bro. Levon DeLee with all churches sending their fees. This report was accepted.

The Mission Fund Report was read by Bro. Donnie Blackmon. The Report was accepted.

New Business: Elections of officers for the new year are as follows:

Moderator - Rev. Charles Corley
Asst. Moderator - Bro. Donnie Blackmon
Clerk- Sis. Martha Caswell
Asst. Clerk - Sis. Lynda Caswell
Member of General Board of A.S.A - Rev. Donald Grice
Christian Board of Ed. (5 year) - Rev. Danny Ryals
Ordination - Rev. Wayne Prickett (5 year)
Mission Fund Treasurer - Bro. Donnie Blackmon

Meetings for the coming year are as follows:

Nov. 1, 1997 - Montgomery, First Free Will Baptist Church
Feb. 14, 1998 - Opelika, First Free Will Baptist Church
May 9, 1998 - Sylacauga, Unity FWB
Aug. 8, 1998 - Opelika, Faith FWB

Delegates elected to the Alabama State Association meeting at Forestdale, in Birmingham on November 6 and 7, 1997 are Martha Caswell, Virginia Tatum, and Cindy DeLee.

Offering taken for the clerks was \$24.00. Opelika's First FWB Church took home the attendance banner with 18 in attendance.

It was moved and seconded to close conference. Dismissed in prayer by Rev. Grice.

Annual Minutes 1997-1998

ORDER OF BUSINESS OF QUARTERLY OR YEARLY ASSOCIATION

1. The body called to order by the Clerk, if present, if not, the Assistant Clerk, if he be present, if not, the body may select some other suitable member to act as clerk.
2. Call for corresponding letters.
3. Invite visiting brethren to seat.
4. Appoint committees.
5. Morning Message.
6. Adjourn for lunch.
7. Call for committee report.
8. Call for miscellaneous or new business.
9. Election of officers at yearly association and appointing time and place for quarterly meeting.
10. Adjournment.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

November 1, 1997, First Free Will Baptist Church, Montgomery
February 14, 1998, First Free Will Baptist Church, Opelika
May 9, 1998, Unity Free Will Baptist Church, Sylacauga
August 8, 1998, Faith Free Will Baptist Church, Opelika

**All East Alabama Meetings begin at 10:00 Central, 11:00 EST.
The lunch break should be scheduled for 11:30 Central, 12:30 EST.**

OFFICERS FOR YEAR 1997- 1998

<u>Moderator:</u>	Rev. Charles Corley (334) 244-2124 5333 Millwood Rd., Montgomery, AL 36109
<u>Asst. Moderator:</u>	Bro. Donnie Blackmon (205) 245 - 6439 507 Morris Ave., Sylacauga, AL 35150
<u>Clerk:</u>	Sis. Martha Caswell (334) 745 - 7597 285 Lee Rd. 166, Opelika, AL 36804
<u>Asst. Clerk:</u>	Sis. Lynda Caswell (334) 749-5283 101 Lee Rd. 759, Opelika, AL 36804
<u>Mission Fund Treas:</u>	Bro. Donnie Blackmon (see Asst. Moderator)

ORDINATION COUNCIL

- 5 Year: Rev. Wayne Prickett, (334) 742-0409
595 Lee Rd. 446, Opelika, AL 36804
- 4 Year: Bro. Robert R. Caswell, (334) 745-7597
285 Lee Rd. 166, Opelika, AL 36804
- 3 Year: Rev. Henry Shellman, (334) 297-5466
40 Lee Rd. 432, Smiths, AL 36877
- 2 Year: Rev. Charles Allen, (334) 887-9021
240 Lee Rd. 191, Auburn, AL 36830
- 1 Year: Rev. Donald Grice (205) 245-4520
1015 Magnolia Dr., Sylacauga, AL 35105

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- 5 Year: Rev. Danny Ryals, (334) 291-9151
4800 22nd Avenue, Phenix City, AL 36867
- 4 Year: Bro. Robin Caswell, (334) 749-5283
101 Lee Rd. 759, Opelika, AL 36804
- 3 Year: Rev. Henry Shellman, (334) 297-5466
40 Lee Rd. 432, Smiths, AL 36877
- 2 Year: Bro. Preston Hinton, (334) 297-5733
603 Lee Rd. 215, Phenix City, AL 36870
- 1 Year: Bro. Roger Price (205) 378-7611
216 Moore St., Childersburg, AL 35044

**MEMBER OF
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TO CHILDRENS HOME
(elected in odd year)**

Bro. Donnie Blackmon

**MEMBER OF GENERAL
BOARD OF ALABAMA STATE
ASSOCIATION
(elected in even year)**

Rev. Donald Grice

CHURCH ADDRESSES

FAITH FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

3920 Marvyn Highway, Opelika, AL 36801
(334) 749-8213

Pastor - Rev. Wayne Prickett (334) 742-0409

595 Lee Road 446, Opelika, AL 36804

Clerk - Sis. Lynda Caswell (334) 749-5283

101 Lee Road 759, Opelika, AL 36804

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, MONTGOMERY

415 Perry Hill Road, Montgomery, AL 36109
(334) 272-9677

Pastor - Rev. Charles Corley (334) 244-2142

5333 Millwood Road, Montgomery, AL 36109

Clerk - Sis. Lois Hibbs (334) 288-9456

1213 Devonshire Drive, Montgomery, AL 36116

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, OPELIKA

1901 1st Avenue, Opelika, AL 36801
(334) 704-0121

Pastor -None

Clerk - Sis. Nancy Carmack (334) 745-3307

2406 2nd Avenue, Opelika, AL 36801

ST. MARK FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

1012 11th Street, Phenix City, AL 36867
(334) 298-8015

Pastor - Rev. Danny Ryals

4800 22nd Avenue, Phenix City, AL 36867

Clerk - Sis. Sandra Hinton (334) 297-5723

603 Lee Rd. 215, Phenix City, AL 36870

UNITY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

501 Morris Avenue, Sylacauga, AL 35105
(205) 249-3980

Pastor - Rev. Donald Grice (205) 245-4520

1015 Magnolia Drive, Sylacauga, AL 35105

Clerk - Sis. Pat Price (205) 378-7611

216 Moore Street, Sylacauga, AL 35044

November 1, 1997, First Free Will Baptist of Montgomery

Conference opened with *The Gloryland Way* led by Sis. Jessica Phillips with Sis. Lois Hibbs at the organ and Sis. Bessie Carr at the piano. Prayer by Bro. Donnie Blackmon. The meeting was called to order by the clerk. Rev. Charles Corley, moderator, welcomed visiting deacons and preachers. The host church welcomed the association. Delegates were seated with no representation from St. Mark. Minutes were read and accepted.

The Business and Finance Committee was appointed as follows: Sis. Maggie Barrett - First Mtgy., Bro. Art Richards - First Opelika, Sis. Francis Blackmon - Unity, Bro. Dale Sheldon - Faith.

The Children's Home Report was given. The Home has 21 children at this time. There are three, two-story cottages that have been completed and furnished. These cottages are debt-free. The new homes do not have licenses for cooking. The Association has been asked to pray for a multi-purpose building. The approximate cost for this would be \$200,000. The 50th year anniversary of the Home will be 1998. There will be several celebrations within this next year. All supporters are asked to join in at least one. Children's Village USA will be the new title for the newsletter. Dedications for the new cottages will also take place in April. Everyone is encouraged to attend. It was moved and carried to accept this report as read.

The Home Missions Report was given by Bro. Donnie Blackmon.

Balance forwarded:	\$161.50.
deposited:	\$105.00
balance:	\$266.50 Oct. 31, 1997

It was moved and carried to accept this report as read.

Resolutions Committee. This report was neglected to be given at the annual meeting (previous meeting) and was read by Rev. Corley. He asked for a moment of silence and prayer of remembrance.

There is a River was sung by Sis. Frances Blackmon. The guest speaker, Rev. Wayne Prickett, Faith FWB, was introduced by the moderator. Rev. Prickett sang, *I Know the Master of the Wind*. His scripture was taken from Matthew 19:16, the young, rich, ruler. The question was asked, "What good thing must I do to inherit the kingdom of God?" The answer - start worshipping God, kindle the fire, preach the word, obey the commandments, and praise God. We need to keep our vows and promises to God, die out to God 100%, stand firm, and sacrifice to meet the needs of others and the church. The invitation hymn was *Just As I Am*. Offering for the speaker was \$54.40.

Old Business:

The last vote for missionaries from the Mission Funds was the November 1996 meeting. The Business and Finance Committee will decide who will receive the funds. We were dismissed for lunch by Bro. LeVon DeLee.

The **afternoon session** opened with *Heaven's Jubilee* sung by the congregation with Sis. Hibbs at the organ and Sis. Martha Caswell at the piano. Bro. Sammy and Bro. Robison had a special, *When I Need Someone to Talk To*. Sis. Karen Scruggs and Sis. Theresa sang, *I Wonder If He Ever Cries*.

Business and Finance Committee

The Business and Finance Committee reported:

<u>Church</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Ch. Home</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Bd of CE</u>
Faith FWB	45.00	-	10.00	10.00
1st Montgomery	45.00	25.00	10.00	10.00
1st Opelika	45.00	25.00	-	-
St. Mark	45.00	-	-	-
Unity	45.00	35.00	-	-
Totals	\$ 225.00	\$85.00	\$20.00	\$20.00

Received \$180.00 fees

Recommends mission fund go to Rev. Len Blanchard, \$156.50.

Ordination Council Report

Bro. LeVon DeLee was recommended by the council to be licensed for one year under the watch care of Faith Free Will Baptist Church.

Christian Board of Education

Bro. Henry Shellman resigned the CBE board due to his being on the Ordination Council. Bro. LeVon DeLee was elected to the 3 year term.

New Business

Rev. Grice suggested youth camp for the EAA.

Rev. Charles Corley suggested that the host church of each quarterly meeting send out a map giving directions to their church.

The next meeting will be held on February 14, 1998, at First Free Will Church of Opelika.

The attendance banner was given to the First Free Will Baptist Church of Opelika with an attendance of 16.

Announcements:

January 14, 1998, revival at First FWB Montgomery
State Association of FWB - Nov. 6&7, 1997, Forestdale FWB, Birmingham
Singing - Nov. 15, 1997, Faith FWB, The Cornerstones

Rising vote of thanks was given by the congregation. An offering was taken up for the clerks. Moved to adjourn and dismissed in prayer by Bro. Donnie Blackmon.

February 14, 1998, First FWB Opelika

Meeting opened with congregational singing of "*Sunlight*", led by Bro. Otis Lynn and accompanied by Sis. Shirley Grice.

The meeting was called to order by the clerk. Moderator Rev. Charles Corley welcomed the churches and recognized all visiting preachers and evangelists. Bro. Ricky Cash and Bro. E.B. Ledlow were recognized. Delegates were read from each church and seated. The minutes were read and accepted. The Business and Finance Committee was appointed as follows: Sis. Lora Cagle - First Opelika, Sis. Deborah Prickett - Faith, Sis. Peggy Miller - Montgomery, Sis. Pat Harris - St. Mark, Sis. Pat Price - Unity.

Children's Home Report - The Home currently has 32 kids ages 3- 18. They had a wonderful Christmas with donations made by Wal-Mart and Alabama Power. The new multipurpose building has slight setbacks. The old building continues to house offices and the kitchen/dining area.

It was moved and carried to accept this report as given.

Bro. E.B. Ledlow was introduced by the Moderator to explain the Acts 1:8 Plan. This plan has been adopted by the State of Alabama to raise funds for state missionaries. There are four couples and two individuals that are from Alabama on the mission field. Individuals and churches are encouraged to participate in purchasing shares of \$192.00 (or partial shares). This plan will give a firm financial foundation for the missionaries, and it will allow leave time to be with family, have fellowship, rest, and time for personal ministry. This will also keep them from losing ground on the field where they are working. It was suggested that each department of the church use quarter folders to help fund in the shares.

Congregational song of "*Victory in Jesus*" followed by "*Beulah Land*" a special by Bro. Randall DeLee of Faith FWB. Sis. Pat Harris from St. Mark FWB sang "*So Much to Thank Him For*".

The Promotional Director, Bro. Ricky Cash, was introduced. As director, he edits *The Digest*. He is also the state treasurer. His goal is to get all churches to pull

together (like two mules hitched to the plow). His scripture was from Acts 5:32 and Luke 22:54-62. In Luke 22 Peter denies Christ during the Passover when Christ was crucified. About two months later Peter claims to be a witness at Pentecost. What caused the change? 1) Peter knew the power of the resurrection 2) There had been a spiritual filling repeated in Peter's life. 3) He was imprisoned for being a witness of Christ. He was told by the angel, "Go, stand, and speak". 4) He had a simple faith in God's word. God changes you. When you knock on the door to witness to others, Jesus knocks on the door with you. The invitation was given "*Just As I Am*" with an altar response. Offering for the guest speaker was \$64.13.

Afternoon Session

The congregation sang, "*Everybody Will Be Happy Over There*", led by Bro. Robert Caswell and accompanied by Sis. Grice. Bro. and Sis. Ledlow sang, "*When God Dips His Love In My Heart*". Sis. Frances Blackmon sang, "*Remind Me*".

Home Missions Report - Bro. Donnie Blackmon presented the association with the report of:

Balance forward 10/31/97	\$266.50
Len Blanchard	- \$156.50
Received	\$ 55.00
Balance	\$165.00

Business and Finance

The Business and Finance Committee reported:

<u>Church</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Ch. Home</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Bd of CE</u>
Faith FWB	45.00	-	10.00	10.00
1st Montgomery	45.00	25.00	10.00	10.00
1st Opelika	45.00	25.00	-	-
St. Mark	45.00	-	-	-
Unity	45.00	35.00	-	-
Totals	\$ 225.00	\$85.00	\$20.00	\$20.00

- Given by Sis. Deborah Prickett. Three hundred fifty dollars was collected by the committee for fees. The committee also recommended that the association purchase one share (\$192.00) in the Acts 1:8 Plan. It was moved and carried.

Ordination Council - It was recommended that Bro. Dale Sheldon be issued a license for another year under the watch care of Faith FWB Church. This was moved and carried.

Christian Board of Education - Will meet on March 13, (6:30 PM CST) in Opelika at Faith FWB to plan for youth rallies and a fall cooperative revival. It was requested that the First of Montgomery and First of Opelika send representatives.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Home Missions: It was moved and carried to send \$55.00 to Bro. Mark Barber.

The host church was given a rising vote of thanks. The attendance banner went to Faith FWB Church for having 40 in attendance.

An offering of \$22.25 was taken up for the clerks.

Announcements:

April 27-29 Rev. Ray Fletcher will be leading revival at Faith FWB.

The EAA Ladies District Annual Meeting is March 28.

Mar. 21, Bro. Billy Fields will be at St. Mark.

It was moved and carried to close the conference with Bro. E.B. Ledlow leading in prayer.

May 9, 1998, Unity FWB Sylacauga

Meeting opened with congregational singing of "*Getting Ready to Leave This World*".

The meeting was called to order by the clerk. Moderator, Rev. Charles Corley welcomed the churches and recognized all visiting preachers and evangelists. Rev. Jimmy Youngblood was recognized. Delegates from each church were seated. The minutes were read and accepted. The Business and Finance Committee was appointed as follows: Sis. Lora Cagle - First Opelika, Bro. LeVon DeLee - Faith, Sis. Peggy Miller - Montgomery, Sis. Eleanor Moore - Unity.

Children's Home Report - Brother Levy Corey resigned April 30. Bro. Roger Bennett is interim director. Bro. Corey's wife and two daughters also left so now new houseparents will need to be hired. The Home will not be taking new children at this time. Bro. Corey has resigned due to health problems and will be greatly missed. We wish him the best. The Lord has blessed the Home with three new units of housing and the multipurpose unit is a work-in-progress. The Home has purchased Bro. Levy's trailer. He will still live in Carbon Hill and continue to do the newsletter at this time. Pray that the Lord will send more staff. Certified public accountant Ron Engel has resigned and the Home has hired a new one. This report was accepted as read.

Home Missions Report - Bro. Donnie Blackmon presented the association with the report of:

Balance forward 2/01/98	\$165.00
Received Quarter folders	\$155.00
Total:	\$320.00
Acts 1:8 Plan	\$192.00
Mark Barber	\$ 55.00
Balance forward 4/30/98	\$ 73.00

This report was accepted.

For Information: Bro. Len Blanchard has sent a letter asking for financial help from our churches to purchase property.

Special music was performed by Sis. Francis Blackmon singing, *"I Can Almost See the Lights"*. Rev. Donald Grice introduced the speaker, Rev. Jimmy Youngblood, pastor of Pleasant Grove FWB. Rev. Youngblood took his message, "The Touch of the Master's Hand" from I Sam 10:26. What we need most is a touch of the Master's hand. Wear out for the Lord instead of rust out for the devil. Daniel prayed, saw Gabriel in a vision, and was touched by God. Naaman's maid suggested going to the house of God so God could help. We need to get people into church so they can be touched by God. A sinner won't surrender until he has to. Lepers came to Jesus and were healed because of the touch of the Master's hand. A Christian needs a touch for separation from the world. A touch of the Master's hand will put joy and inspiration in your soul to do God's work. An invitation was given with the congregation singing, "Just As I Am". There was a wonderful response with the altar filled. Rev. Youngblood requested prayer to become a full-time pastor. An offering of \$79.00 was taken up for the speaker. The congregation was dismissed with a prayer and blessing over the meal.

Afternoon Session

The congregation sang, *"When the Roll is Called Up Yonder"*, led by Rev. Wayne Prickett. Rev. Prickett also sang a special, *"The Master of the Wind"*. Sis Shirley Grice and Charlotte Pessasky sang, *"Tears Will Never Stain the Streets of that City"*.

Ordination Council

Bro. Henry Shellman is leaving this association and it is recommended that he be given a letter of good standing to be sent to the association he is now affiliated with in Georgia. It was moved and accepted, followed by the right hand of fellowship. The council recommended that item 20 of the East Alabama Association By-Laws be amended to read as follows:

Licensed Free Will Baptist ministers may be ordained only as an associate pastor, youth pastor, evangelist, music minister, missionary, or mission worker, after having been licensed for one year under the watch-care of the FWB church. The only exception to the one year watch-care shall be in the case of a licensed minister called to pastor a FWB church, in which case he may be ordained before the year is completed. (See the August 8, 1998 minutes for amendment to include the word “pastor”.)

It was carried.

Business and Finance Report -

The Business and Finance Committee reported:

<u>Church</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Ch. Home</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Bd of CE</u>
Faith FWB	45.00	-	10.00	10.00
1st Montgomery	45.00	25.00	10.00	10.00
1st Opelika	45.00	-	-	-
St. Mark	45.00	-	-	-
Unity	45.00	35.00	-	-
Totals	\$ 225.00	\$60.00	\$20.00	\$20.00

Christian Board of Education

Youth Rally, May 16, 1998, 10:00 AM Eastern, 9:00 AM Central, St. Mark FWB Church. Participants will go to the Hollywood Connection and afterwards return to St. Mark for pizza and a service. Adam Austin will preach.

Faith FWB Church will be the meeting site for a cooperative revival planned for August. More information will be forthcoming from the CBE.

The dress code will be discussed at the June CBE meeting and brought back before the Association at the August meeting. Each church is to address the dress code for their own church for the May 16 youth rally. This was moved and carried.

Alabama Home Missions: Bro. Lynn Blanchard is doing well in his mission work. The Huntsville mission work is progressing well. Each church is asked to do all they can financially to help Bro. Blanchard's work.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Bro. Donnie Blackmon was nominated to replace Rev. Henry Shellman on the Ordination Council. This was carried.

Rev. Charles Corley was elected to replace Bro. Art Richards on the Christian Board of Education.

Faith FWB Church took home the attendance banner.

An offering of \$29.00 was taken up for the clerks.

A rising vote of thanks was given to the host church.

Announcements:

Ladies Prayer Retreat - July 31, 1998, 6:00, First FWB Church, Montgomery

Rev. Richard Hendrix will hold revival at Unity FWB the week of June 14, 1998.

Montgomery FWB will hold homecoming on June 9, 1998.

Faith FWB will have a singing June 20, 1998, featuring DayStar.

The next meeting will be the Annual meeting, August 8, 1998, at Faith FWB Church, Opelika. Dismissed in prayer.

August 8, 1998, Faith FWB, Opelika ANNUAL MEETING

Conference opened with Sis. Deborah Prickett at the piano and Bro. Robert Caswell leading "*Victory Is Mine*". Prayer was led by Rev. Donald Grice. Another congregational song, "*Press Along to Gloryland*".

Rev. Charles Corley, moderator, read from I Peter 5:5. "Submit yourselves one to another. We are servants to serve others and God will bless."

Conference was called to order by the clerk. Rev. Ricky Gilmore from SouthEast FWB Association was welcomed. The delegates were read and seated. The minutes were read. It was moved and seconded to accept. This was passed.

The committees were appointed as follows: Business and Finance: Sis. Pat Price - Unity, Bro. Lucius Brown - Faith, Mary Williams - First of Opelika, Sis. Virginia Tatum - 1st Mont., Sis. Prestina Hinton - St. Mark. The Resolutions Committee - Sis. Frances Blackmon - Unity, Sis. Deborah Prickett-Faith, Sis. Maggie Barrett - 1st Mont., Sis. Lora Cagle - 1st Opelika, Sis. Sandra Hinton - St. Mark.

Children's Home Report

The Home now has 18 children. It is at the point that it can take in new children. We have sold the bus for \$14,000 to a gospel singing group from Georgia. They are Free Will Baptists and would like to come back and do a benefit singing for the Home. A lady that owns a second-hand store takes clothing the home cannot use and sells it. Last year she gave a portion back to the Home of \$35,000. Needs: one or two 12-15 passenger vans, a good golf cart for going from building to building, work done on the superintendent's house so he can move in, and we still have need of house parents. The multi-purpose building is almost complete. Bro. Roger, our interim superintendent, is seeking approval of the State of Alabama to become the Children's Home Superintendent.

Home Missions Report - Bro. Donnie Blackmon presented the association with the report of:

Balance forward	\$ 73.00
Received Quarter folders	\$140.00
EAA	40.00
Total:	\$253.00
Paid Out	0.00
Balance forward 7/31/98	\$253.00

This report was accepted.

Bro. Danny Ryals gave information on our National meeting. The next National meeting will be in Atlanta. Rev. Wayne Prickett sang a special, "*Like Never Before*". He introduced our special speaker, Rev. Richard Gilmore. Scripture was taken from II Tim. 3:1-5. We have put the church last instead of first. Our churches have taken of form of godliness, but denying the power thereof. Members in our churches have lost the burden for the lost. We need to get our minds focused back on God. Nehemiah 1:3-9 gives us guidelines. He fasted and prayed, day and night, for the salvation of the people. When we do this, our churches will grow.

Invitation was given. Song was "*Nothing Between*". Offering for the speaker was \$67.25. We dismissed for lunch.

Afternoon Session

Congregational singing started the afternoon session with "*I'm Going That Way*" led by Bro. Robert Caswell with Sis. Martha Caswell at the piano. Sis. Frances Blackmon sang the special, "*People Need the Lord*".

Business and Finance Report

Sis. Prestina Hinton, chairperson, gave the report.

The Business and Finance Committee reported:

<u>Church</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Ch. Home</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Bd of CE</u>
Faith FWB	45.00	-	10.00	10.00
1st Montgomery	45.00	25.00	10.00	10.00
1st Opelika	45.00	-	-	-
St. Mark	45.00	10.00	10.00	-
Unity	45.00	35.00	-	-
Totals	\$ 225.00	\$70.00	\$30.00	\$20.00

Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee moved that we offer a moment of silence in remembrance of our deceased.

Unity - Sis. Irene Hopkins (7/15/97)

Bro. Johnny Daughtery (12/8/97)

Faith - Sis. Thelma (Granny) Dunn

1st Opelika - Sis. Marcel Lynn (7/14/98)

Ordination Board

No Report

Christian Board of Education

Met June 5, 1998 at Western Sizzler in Opelika. We voted to recommend the dress code for our youth activities.

- 1) First of all, it should be modest. No shorts, inappropriate tops such as halter or tank tops, or t-shirts with offensive language or symbols. Jeans are OK for activities (girls and boys). When we have worship services, youth should dress for worship.
- 2) We recommend a cooperative revival be sponsored by our Association. The dates will be August 10-14 at Faith Church with Bro. Rick Cash as our evangelist. Due to conflict of dates, we had to postpone and consult the association for new dates. Each church will be in charge of one night (hosting and music). The new dates are November 16 - 18 at Faith Church, 7:00 PM.
- 3) Possible weekend retreat in the fall. (Unity Church to host a Fall Festival)
- 4) Youth rally at St. Mark on May 16th went well. Each youth dressed and acted properly. Everyone had a fun time playing putt-putt, rides and video games at Hollywood Connection. We went back to the church for pizza. A couple of the youth sang and Bro. Adam Austin brought a message on "Generation X"

We urge each church to pray for our youth. We want our Association to be active outside of our quarterly meetings.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to accept this report.

Old Business

Rev. Corley read the new amendment. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the amendment with the word "pastor" included.

New Business

Bro. Donnie Blackmon encouraged everyone to give to missions. He recommended \$150.00 to go to Rev. Len Blanchard. This would leave \$103.00 in the mission account.

Election of officers:

Moderator:	Rev. Charles Corley
Asst. Moderator:	Rev. Wayne Prickett
Clerk	Sis. Martha Caswell
Asst. Clerk	Sis. Lynda Caswell
Mission Fund	Bro. Donnie Blackmon

Ordination Board

5 year Rev. Donald Grice

Christian Bd of Education

5 year Bro. Roger Price

Member of the General Board of Alabama State Association of Free Will Baptists

Rev. Donald Grice

Delegates to the State Association November 5-6, 1998

Sis. Shirley Grice
Sis. Deborah Prickett
Sis. Martha Caswell
Sis. Virginia Tatum
Bro. Preston Hinton

It was moved to accept these delegates.

Quarterly meetings for 1998-1999

November 14, 1998	- St. Mark FWB, Phenix City, AL
February 13, 1999	- First FWB Montgomery
May 8, 1999	- Unity FWB, Sylacauga
August 14, 1999	-Faith FWB, Opelika

Announcements:

Cornerstone will be at Faith FWB Church August 15.
Homecoming - St. Mark, Sept 20
Sis. Shirley Grice gave the report of the Ladies Retreat.

The First Church of Opelika took the attendance banner. Offering for the clerk was \$32.09. A rising vote of thanks was shown to the host church. It was moved and carried to adjourn. Dismissed in prayer by Rev. Donald Grice.

CLERK'S REPORT

General Fund

August 31, 1996 - Old Balance **\$2052.82**

Fees and other amounts received:

Aug 96	315.00
Nov 96	315.00
Feb 97	325.00
May 97	315.00
Aug 97	325.00
Nov 97	305.00
Feb 98	395.00
May 98	<u>325.00</u>

Total received **2620.00**

Total on Hand **4672.82**

Paid Out:

East Al. Missions	Aug 96	10.00
Children's Home	Aug 96	60.00
Children's Home	May 96	60.00
East Al. Missions	May 96	10.00
Al. State Assoc.	Aug 96	250.00
Lynda Caswell		
(copies of combined rpts)	Nov 96	5.59
Robin Caswell		
(CBE Video)	Nov 96	3.23
East Al. Missions	Jan 97	10.00
Children's Home	Christmas	125.00
Children's Home	Jan 97	60.00
Children's Home	Feb 97	125.00
Children's Home	Feb 97	60.00
East Al. Missions	Feb 97	20.00
Auburn Univ. Printing		
(minutes)	Feb 97	41.12
East Al. Missions	Jul 97	10.00
Children's Home	Jul 97	60.00
Al. State Assoc. (Blanchard)	Jul 97	100.00
Children's Home	Aug 97	60.00
East Al. Missions	Aug 97	20.00
Al. State Assoc.	Oct 97	250.00
East Al. Missions	Feb 98	20.00
Children's Home	Feb 98	85.00
Randall House	Feb 98	3.00

Children's Home	May 98	60.00
East Al. Missions	May 98	20.00
Children's Home	May 98	85.00
East Al. Missions	May 98	20.00
The Lighthouse Bookstore	May 98	5.81
Christian Board of Education (Rally)	May 98	39.30
USPO (stamps)	May 98	<u>32.00</u>

TOTAL: 1710.05

Balance: 2,962.77

Bank Balance - August 1998 2,962.77

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FINANCIAL REPORT

August 1996 - Old Balance 1,138.43

Received - Offerings:

Nov 96	20.00
Feb 97	20.00
May 97	20.00
Aug 97	20.00
Nov 97	20.00
Feb 98	20.00
May 98	<u>20.00</u>
Total Received	140.00

Total On Hand 1278.43

Paid Out:

Robin Caswell (CBE Video)	Nov 96	3.23
Danny Ryals (Rally)	May 98	39.30

Total Paid Out: 42.53

August 1998 - New Balance 1,235.90

Balance in General Fund	2,962.77
Less Bd of Christian Education Fund	<u>1,235.90</u>

Balance in General Fund 1,726.87

CHURCH DECORUM

1. The church may choose a pastor annually or as determined necessary by the church, or if they prefer they may call a pastor for an indefinite length of time.
2. The pastor, if he is an ordained Free Will Baptist minister, shall be moderator of all church conferences. When he is absent or does not serve, the Chairman of the Board of Deacons shall serve in his place, and in his absence some other suitable brother may be selected by majority vote of the congregation.
3. There shall be one or more deacons in the church whose duty it shall be to assist the pastor in the administration of the Lord's Supper.
4. Some suitable member shall be appointed clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and other writing pertaining to the business of the church and to preserve a file of minutes of the church.
5. When a new clerk is appointed, all books, etc, belonging to the clerk shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor.
6. It shall be the duty of every member, male and female, to attend each conference meeting if they can, for on that day, the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a spiritual manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and the rule of holy living.
7. Conference shall be opened and conducted as follows:
 1. Prayer (unless divine service has been conducted).
 2. Invite visiting brethren to sit with us.
 3. Open door of church for reception of members.
 4. Acknowledgments.
 5. References or deferred business.
 6. Matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church.
 7. Miscellaneous business.
 8. Adjournment.
8. Visiting brethren who are called in as helpers from sister churches shall be allowed to speak and make motions or second motions, but will not be allowed to vote.
9. Any orderly member of another church who does hold this church in membership, may be received into the church without a letter, when it is made apparent that his Christian character is unimpeachable, and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desired to join this or some sister church. All other members must join by letter or baptism.
10. No member shall be received without the majority of the members present, but unreasonable objections shall not be valid and, unless withdrawn by the member who makes them, shall be liable to be taken under dealing by the church.

11. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing to attend this trial provided his residence be known to the church.
12. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgment shall be recorded to the minutes in the church books.
13. Members dismissed from the church by letter, who become disorderly or continue to hold their letter without a good reason, shall be cited to the conference to answer for their conduct.
14. Expelled members may be restored to fellowship on their petition, if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented for their former evil.
15. A vote shall not be taken on any question without being moved and seconded and all important questions must be moved and seconded and the vote taken by members rising to their feet, and all votes taken by count.
16. No other motion shall be considered while a previous motion and second is before the conference.
17. It shall be considered disorderly for a member to be absent from conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member, upon his request, may be excused by the church from voting on either side in particular cases.
18. No member shall leave the house during conference without a sufficient cause, nor engage in a conversation or whispering without being subject to being called by the moderator.
19. All discussion in conference must be conducted with calmness and good faith; those who speak must rise to their feet and address the moderator, and keep to the point in debate.
20. No one shall speak more than three times on the motion without permission of the moderator, nor shall the remarks of anyone be unreasonably long.
21. When the moderator speaks he must nominate some other brother in his stead.
22. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it is necessary to call the speaker to order.
23. It shall be the rule of the church to attend to the administration of the Lord's Supper and feet washing at least once a year and the expenses are to be paid by the church.
24. Members not in good standing shall not commune, but the administration shall not be deferred on account of any.
25. Public fasting, humiliation and prayer shall be observed on proper occasions.

26. This Decorum may be amended or altered by the vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present at any two successive monthly conferences.
27. Any member who is absent from his church for six months shall be placed on the inactive roll until he returns and proves himself to the satisfaction of the church.

BY-LAWS

1. The East Alabama Association of Free Will Baptist and its members adopt the treatise of the National Association of Free Will Baptist in faith and practice.
2. The clerk and assistant clerk, or in their absence, the senior minister in years shall call the association into conference, and if a quorum is present the moderator or in his absence, the assistant moderator shall take charge; and if neither of these is present, the senior minister in years shall act as moderator.
3. It shall be the duty of the clerk to enroll the delegates to the association. These delegates shall present themselves with proper evidence of their rights to their seats therein, and those enrolled by the clerk shall compose the association. In case of questionable representation, however, the cases under question shall be referred to the credential committee.
4. It shall be the duty of every body belonging to this association to send a letter to every annual session to this association reporting in the same spiritual condition, benevolent work and statistics. Any body belonging to this association which fails to report itself for two successive sessions may be dismissed from the association by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members present.
5. Each meeting shall be opened by reading a portion of the Bible and with prayer and shall be closed with prayer.
6. By a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members present a ruling of the moderator can be overruled.
7. This association may correspond by messenger or otherwise with other religious bodies.
8. This association shall sit with open doors except when it shall go in a committee as a whole.
9. Any person not a member of this association may be allowed to take part in it's discussion by obtaining permission from the moderator.
10. It shall be the duty of all members of the association to be present at the time appointed for each meeting.

11. No member shall absent himself from the association during its meeting without first obtaining permission from the moderator.
12. No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member of any committee, provided the person nominated be elected.
13. The moderator shall not allow discussion when not carried on in a Christian spirit or when he thinks it will cause discord or division.
14. Anyone desiring to speak shall rise to his feet and address the moderator by the appellation "Brother Moderator", but shall not speak further until recognized by the moderator.
15. The "yeas" and "nays" may be counted on any question by request of one-fifth (1/5) of the members present.
16. No members of this Association shall be allowed to speak more than five minutes, nor twice on the same subject without permission from the moderator.
17. It shall be the duty of the moderator to seat delegates in a designated section of the assembly room at the beginning of a business session.
18. These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any regular or adjourned session of the Association by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present.
19. Minutes of the last Association Meeting shall be read and adopted at the beginning of each session.
20. Licensed Free Will Baptist ministers may only be ordained as a pastor, associate pastor, youth pastor, music minister, missionary, or mission worker, after having been licensed for one year under the watch-care of the FWB church. The only exception to the one year watch-care shall be in the case of a licensed minister called to pastor a FWB church, where he may be ordained before the year is completed.
21. Any church desiring the service of the Ordaining Council between conferences must bear the expense of the council.
22. Any minister coming to this association must bring a letter of recommendation from his association.
23. This association shall not consider for ordination any man who does not pay tithes, or any man who has been divorced and remarried, if first wife is still living.
24. Each pastor shall be accepted by the ordination council before being placed on any board of permanent committee.
25. A minister coming to this association for the first time shall bring a photostatic copy of his ordination papers, or some proof of his having been ordained as a Free Will Baptist. Such papers shall be kept by the clerk. A minister coming from a local

church, not a member of an association, shall be examined by the Ordination Council.

26. (Passed August, 1962) We recommend that each church enclose with their letter a list of ministers and deacons to receive certificates of standing and that each church have 6 delegates for the 1st 100 members plus 1 delegate for each 50 thereafter.
27. List of Officers, Boards, Committees and Councils:
 1. Moderator
 2. Assistant Moderator
 3. Clerk
 4. Assistant Clerk
 5. East Alabama Mission Fund Treasurer
 6. Trustee to Childrens Home
 7. General Board
 8. Board of Christian Education
 9. Ordination Council
 10. Executive Committee
 11. Business and Finance Committee
 12. Resolutions Committee

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the By-Laws be amended to include the following governmental statement: No officer, board, committee, or council has any authority over any other officer, board, committee, or council, except that which has been specifically described by the associational body in it's By-Laws. All officers, boards, and committees are councils of equal authority, and are servants of the body of the association. Hence, they are answerable to the body of their performance of duties and conduct. No officer, board, committee, or council shall assume any responsibilities other than that which has been expressly assigned to it by the body. Any officer, board, committee, or council which does not abide by the above state by-laws shall be subject to dismissal and any appropriate discipline decided by the body.
2. The list of officers and their job description shall be included as part of the By-Laws of the East Alabama Association of Free Will Baptists.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

1. **Moderator:** The moderator will be responsible to conduct the business meetings of the association according to Roberts Rules of Order. The moderator is an ex-officio member of all boards, committees and councils. The moderator will be responsible to KNOW the Treatise of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, the Church Decorum and the By-Laws of the East Alabama Association of Free Will Baptists.

2. **Assistant Moderator:** The assistant moderator will be equally qualified in his knowledge of Free Will Baptist as the Moderator. He will be responsible to do the job of the moderator in his absence.
3. **Clerk:** It will be the duty of the clerk to keep accurate minutes of all associational meetings. Also keep all records orderly and up-to-date. It is also the duty of the clerk to handle all correspondence reports, and letters to all other levels in the denomination. It will also be the duty of the clerk to keep an honest account of the association's general fund and disburse the money according to the will of the association.
4. **Assistant Clerk:** It will be the responsibility of the assistant clerk to work closely enough with the clerk's duties that she may efficiently take her place when unable to perform said duties.
5. **East Alabama Mission Fund Treasurer:** It will be the responsibility of the mission fund treasurer to receive all contributions to the mission fund, keep accurate and honest account of them and disburse them at the will of the body.
6. **Trustee to Children's Home:** It will be the responsibility of the Trustee to the Children's Home to attend all meetings of the board of trustees for the Children's Home. While there, he will take notes of the meetings and give brief but accurate reports of said meetings to the body. It will be the duty of the trustee to reflect the opinion of the body when voting on all matters concerning the Home when said opinion has been expressly stated. Otherwise, he will vote appropriately.
7. **Board of Christian Education:** It will be the responsibility of the Board of Christian Education to act in the advisory capacity concerning the educational activities of the association. They will be responsible to recommend the structure of youth camp(s) and recommend qualified directors for camps. It will be the responsibility of the board to set dates, times and places for associational youth rallies. It will be the responsibility of the board to recommend whatever steps and activities they deem beneficial and practical to the association for the furtherance of our association.
8. **Ordination Council:** The Ordination Council will act as the credentials committee when needed. The ordination council will be responsible for the thorough examination of ALL candidates for ordination to the office of deacon or preacher in the association. The council shall not recommend any candidate who does not meet the requirements of the association as reflected in our minutes (most recent). This includes any who have never been ordained, as well as those who come from another denomination or association. Only ordained men can serve on this council. Requirements are:
 1. Cannot have but one living wife.
 2. Must tithe. (10% of their income).
 3. Must attend all services of their local church faithfully.
 4. Cannot use or handle alcohol or tobacco.
 5. Must read his Bible faithfully.
 6. Must pray faithfully.
 7. Cannot use off-color language.
 8. Must have good reputation regarding financial obligations.

9. **General Board - Executive Board:** The General Board shall be made up of the pastors of the East Alabama Association, who are in good standing. The General Board may meet, and if they desire, elect an Executive Board out of the General Board. The Executive Board shall act in an advisory capacity in regards to the disbursements of the assets of the Home Mission Fund. The Executive Board shall act as the association's representative in the organization of new churches (when requested), and in the commissioning of home missionaries under the association's support. (Only ordained men can serve on either Board).
10. **Business and Finance Committee:** It will be the responsibility of the Business and Finance Committee to consider and examine all major items of business that will come upon the floor of any business session. The committee will make known all items of business which come before it whether they recommend them or not. The business and finance committee may refine or alter any item of business that is presented before it to make it more practical.
11. **Resolutions Committee:** Be it recommended that the "Temperance, Sabbath Day Observance, and Deceased Committee be dissolved and consolidated into this one committee for the sake of convenience and efficiency. It will be the responsibility of this committee to formulate and present resolutions concerning important moral and doctrinal issues when instructed to do so by the body. It is also the responsibility of the Resolution Committee to give a report in the form of a resolution concerning those in our churches who have died during the previous year. This committee will be appointed and function only during the annual meeting.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **The Holy Bible.** The Scriptures of the Old Testament were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rules of faith and practice. II Peter 1:18-21; II Timothy 3:16-17.
2. **God.** There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the Universe; and in the Scripture as Father, Son and Holy Ghost, yet as one God infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, and obey. Deuteronomy 6:4; I Corinthians 8:4; Jeremiah 10:10; John 7:28; II Corinthians 1:19; I Timothy 6:17.
3. **Christ.** Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever present Savior and Lord. Isaiah 45:21; John 4:42; Revelation 22:13; I John 5:20; I Timothy 3:16.
4. **The Holy Spirit.** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attribute of God. He is the Reprover, Comforter, Guide and Sanctifier of men. John 16:13; I Corinthians 2:11; Acts 13:2; John 16:8.

5. **The Government of God.** God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace not otherwise provided for as the highest welfare of man requires. Psalm 19:12; Psalm 145:10; Acts 1:28; Psalm 22:28.
6. **The Sinfulness of Man.** Man was created innocent, but in disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity therefore, inherit a fallen nature of tendencies that all come to year of accountability, sin and become guilty before God. Deuteronomy 30:19; Ezekiel 33:11; Jeremiah 44:4; Psalm 5:15; John 6:44.
7. **The Work of Christ.** The son of God by His incarnation, life sufferings, death and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full, free and is the ground of salvation by faith. II Corinthians 2:8-10; John 3:3; Colossians 2:8-10; John 16:30; John 3:13; Isaiah 9:6.
8. **The Terms of Salvation.** The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death. Romans 10:10; Acts 16:31; Hebrews 11:16; Revelation 2:10; John 15:9.
9. **Election.** God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect. Romans 11:5-7,28; Romans 9:11.
10. **Freedom of the Will.** Human will is free and self controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the spirit or to resist them and perish. Revelation 22:17; John 11:12.
11. **Salvation Free.** God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely. II Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 11:28; Isaiah 45:22; Revelation 22:17; I Timothy 2:4.
12. **Gospel Ordinances.** Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel; Feet Washing is an ordinance of teaching humility of universal obligation, and is to be administered to all true believers. Matthew 28:19; Colossians 2:12; Acts 8:36-39; Mark 1:5; Romans 6:4; Matthew 26:26-28; I Corinthians 10:16-21; John 13:1-17.
13. **Tithing.** God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament. Jesus Christ endorsed it in the Gospel (Matthew 23:23), and the Apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay be him in store as God hath prospered him." I Corinthians 16:2.

14. **The Christian Sabbath:** The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from the secular employments and amusements for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God. Gen. 2:3; Mark 2:27; Ex. 20:8-11; Nehemiah 9:14; Luke 24:1-6.
15. **Resurrection:** Judgement and final Retribution. The Scripture teaches the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to all the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Ecclesiastes 12:7; Philippians 1:23; Luke 23:43; Matthew 17:3; Matthew 10:28; Acts 1:11; Matthew 28:6; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15; I Corinthians 15:22; Revelation 20:12; Romans 2:16; Matthew 25:46; II Thessalonians 1:8-10; Romans 2:23; II Peter 1:11; Mark 3:29; Matthew 13:41-43; Romans 2:6-10; Acts 17:31.

