

MINUTES

OF THE

Forty-Ninth Annual Session

OF THE

Texas Free Will
Baptist Association

HELD WITH

New Hope Church
Rusk County

SEPTEMBER 30th TO OCTOBER 2nd, 1926

Proceedings:

The Forty-Ninth Annual Session of the Texas Free Will Baptist Association convened with New Hope church, Rusk County, September 30th to October 2nd.

Rev. J. W. Doster preached the introductory sermon from Tim. 2:2.

The first session of the Association opened Friday morning at 9:30.

Song service, led by Rev. Ira Harper. Devotional by Rev. D. J. Dollar. The first item of business was the appointment of the pulpit committee by the Moderator, Rev. E. S. Jamerson. Bro. Ira Harper was made chairman with the following brethren to assist: G. L. Young, P. H. Graves, J. F. Patterson. The holders of church letters were asked to present them. The following church responded by their duly elected delegates: Youngblood—Miss Eva Hill, Miss Lilly Tompkins and Mrs. Grace Singletary. Friendship—W. B. Duke, Jr. Christian Chapel—Mrs. Carrie Parker, Miss Bonnie Jean Dollar and John Dollar. Buncomb—Bro. and Sister P. H. Graves and Bro. and Sister H. A. Graves. New Hope Church, Smith Co., Brother and Sister Gray and Bro. N. T. Seagraves, Broom's Chapel—T. J. Davis, C. C. Sanders and wife, and Miss Linnie Bell Waits. This being a newly organized church, it asked for membership in the Association, which was granted and the delegates given the right hand of fellowship.

Having a little time to spare the Moderator asked our field secretary, Rev. J. J. Tatum to address the body for a short time. He brought us greetings from the various associations over the state.

Bro. J. P. Brown a visitor to our association from Bryan, Texas, gave us a short talk by the way of introduction.

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Bro. Oscar Hesser and wife were authorized to represent Center Point church.

Rev. Ira Harper gave a verbal report of the condition of this church, which was received.

There being no letter from Union Arbor a report from Rev. E. S. Jamerson on the condition of this church showed it to be in a prosperous condition.

Brother S. S. Sims and wife and Bro. Travis Jones and wife were seated as delegates.

Treasurers report received. Verbal report from New Hope church was given by Mrs. Inez Morris.

Bro. J. W. Doster gave a favorable report of Folsom church. No delegates from this church.

Rev. J. A. Smith gave the report from Dirgin. He reported a very live Sunday School that had \$26.00 in its treasury.

Dismissed for preaching by Rev. H. C. Dunn.

Rev. B. A. Wainwright preached at eleven o'clock from Rom. 12:1.

The association convened in the afternoon at 1:30.

Devotional led by Rev. J. A. Smith. Scripture lesson 23rd Psalm.

Letter from Mt. Olive read and received and delegates: Bro. V. W. Jones and wife, Bro. C. W. Whitehead and Bro. M. B. Stafford seated.

Rev. D. R. Jimmerson rendered a verbal report from Good Hope church. He was seated as a delegate from Good Hope.

Report from Venice by Rev. J. W. Doster received.

A verbal report was received from each of the following churches: Bethlehem church in Smith county, and Harper's Grove, Rusk county.

The present officers were re-elected: Rev. E. S. Jamerson, moderator; Rev. B. A. Wainwright, assistant moderator; Rev. Ira Harper, assistant clerk.

The appointment of the various committees was entered into. A committee was appointed for each of the

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following subjects: The Standing of the Ministry, Condition of Churches, Publication, Education, Sunday School, Young People's Work, Evangelism, Finance, Obituaries.

Rev. J. P. Brown was invited to address the body on any subject he wished to talk about. He chose Evangelism, and gave a very profitable talk.

After a short intermission the moderator called the executive committee together. The body adjourned for the day.

Rev. J. J. Tatum was appointed by the committee to preach Friday night. His subject was, "What Have Thee in Thine House?" First Kings 17:12.

The association was called to order Saturday morning at 8:30. Devotional led by Rev. H. C. Dunn. Scripture lesson: First division of Psalms.

Petitionary letter from Mud Creek, a newly organized church, read and received and delegates given the right hand of fellowship.

Delegates from Venice church seated, Bro. I. F. Lunsford and Bro. S. E. Lunsford and wife.

Report of Committee On Young People's Work.

Report of committee on Young People's Work read as follows: We find that the old people do not take the part they should in our work. While the Christian Endeavor has been organized and has been a failure on account of the old people not taking their part as they should. We feel that we need a worker on the field that will work with the old people as well as the young people; and the funds should be raised by the churches to pay the worker. We, your committee, beg that this be done at once.

Committee—F. E. Smith, A. D. Singletary, J. S. Tompkins, Miss Lillie Tompkins, H. H. Harris.

Adjourned for dinner.

As per adjournment the association convened at 2:30

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Devotional by Brother V. W. Jones.

Rev. D. R. Jimmerson filled the stand at 11 o'clock.

Report on finance referred back to the committee.

Report of Sunday School Committee.

S. S. Report read and received as follows: No church is complete without a Sunday School to help. We find that the Sunday School work over the field is not what it should or could be. Therefore we urge that our people take a greater interest in this great work and try to improve it. We recommend that a delegation be sent to the Rusk and Panola county Sunday School Convention to be held with Friendship church, Calyton, Panola County, on Friday night and Saturday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1926.

Committee—Ira Harper, J. P. Brown, V. W. Jones, Mrs. Grace Singletary, Mrs. Irene Morris.

Report On Laymen's Council.

The committee on Laymen's Council reported as follows: Seeing the necessity of a better co-operation among our laymen, we recommend that all laymen of the various churches take a more active part in the advancement of the cause, especially in assisting our pastors, contributing to missions, and in all educational undertakings, also in organizing Christian Aid Societies, Sabbath Schools, prayer meetings, and contributing to their support.

Committee—P. H. Graves, G. B. Martin, J. W. Pittman, H. H. Harris, W. B. Duke, Jr., C. W. Gray, J. P. Brown.

Report On Condition of the Churches.

The Committee on Condition of the Churches gave the following report: We find that the churches are in good condition spiritually but not so well financially. We recommend a greater degree of financial interest.

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Committee—G. B. Martin, chairman; H. C. Dunn, J. W. Doster, Oscar Hesser, G. L. Young.

Report of Committee On Education.

With the present day public school system and other facilities, it behooves us as church workers, in order to meet the demands successfully, that we use every legitimate means in preparing ourselves to meet the demand of more efficient leadership by reading and study and when possible attend training class work, that our lives and influence may reach and do the best for those coming in contact with us. Especially do we urge the ministers who are the recognized leaders to improve and inform themselves as best they can that all may be inspired by their ministry. We further recommend that a course of reading be suggested by the ordaining council for those desiring to enter the ministry. Be it further resolved that this association provide a training class of ten days where instruction may be given a class for leadership in our various churches. This step in educational matters is to be under the control and direction of the ordaining council.

Committee—J. J. Tatum, P. H. Graves, Miss Edna Heard, Mrs. C. C. Sanders, Mrs. J. A. Clark, M. C. Graves,

Report of Committee On Finance.

The committee on Finance reported as follows: We recommend that each member be asked to pay the sum of two dollars, this sum to go into a fund to be used at the direction of the executive committee, and that all the officers of the various church constitute a committee to collect this amount and forward it to the clerk of the Association not later than June 30th, 1927.

Committee—H. W. Watson, chairman; J. A. Clark, P. H. Graves, J. F. Patterson, A. A. Bennett.

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Report of Committee On Evangelism.

We, your Committee on Evangelism, beg leave to make the following report: That as far as we are able to learn, we, with other denominations, are lacking in the old-time spirit of evangelism that marked the church as the "high tower" over light and salvation, the only great and secure refuge in our distress. Therefore, we would recommend that our pastors be urged to earnestly and faithfully strive to become indeed more evangelistic pastors; that our churches may become once more more nearly like the Apostolic churches in plan and purpose, prayer and praise, labor and love.

Therefore, we would recommend that all our churches plan for and hold special evangelistic mid-year services in addition to the regular summer meetings, using local or home talent, when deemed advisable, if such can be secured. Believing that the last year's program as recommended was an admirable one in that it recommended a definite amount to secure and applied to this line of work. We recommend that five hundred dollars be appropriated to this line of effort, said campaign to be under the control of the executive committee.

Lastly, we urge that isms and cisms and all minor controverted matters be left and that for three months, December, January and February, we devote ourselves in a united effort in prayer and activity to the one great effort of winning souls and developing of Christian character and usefulness.

Committee—J. J. Tatum, chairman; D. R. Jimmerson, Mrs. Gus Smith, D. J. Dollar, B. A. Wainwright.

Report of Committee On Publication.

We, your Committee On Publication beg to submit the following report: Another year has passed and gone, and we, as church people in Texas, are still without a

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church paper. There seems to be very little interest manifested as to our ever having one. Other denominations are publishing their papers and doing what they can to push the work of the printed gospel over the land. Why not we? Would you like to hear and reard what our people are doing over this and other states? If so, help us devise a plan whereby we may have a church paper for our people. We recommend that this association take earnest steps to try to interest other associations in Texas in this needed work. If each member or head of families in Texas who are Free Will Baptists would subscribe one dollars we could have a good church payer. We urge you to take up this matter and help.

Committee—Earney Weaver, F. F. Pinson, E. S. Lunsford, Mrs. V. W. Jones, Mrs. Dottie Hesser

Report of Executive Committee.

We, the Executive Committee, of the Texas Free Will Baptist Association, in session Oct. 2nd, 1926, to consider the standing of the ministry. Bro. H. T. Sizemore being called in question, charges were preferred against him by Rev. Ira Harper for being guilty of conduct not becoming a minister of our faith and order, after which it was requested he be tried.

After hearing testimony a motion to call for credentials carried. The clerk was instructed to secure his credentials any way he saw fit. All other ministers were found to be in good standing. A motion carried to institute an organization known as a Ministers and Deacons Institute. We respectfully submit the foregoing report.

All officers of the association composing the committee, Rev. E. S. Jamerson, chairman.

Report of Committe On Obituaries.

We, the Committee on Obituaries, report the following deaths: Sister Callie Johnson, of Centre Point

8 MINUTES OF TEXAS FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION church; Bro. J. B. Duke and Sister J. B. Duke, of Friendship Church. Brother and Sister Duke were charter members of the first Free Baptist Church in Texas. They had been faithful for nearly 49 years. Their posterity has shown their training by their faithfulness to the church.

Committee—Mrs. V. M. Jones, Miss Eva Hill, Mrs. Mary H. McFadden, Miss Josie Tompkins, Mrs. Dottie Hesser.

Delegates to State Convention.

The Moderator recommended the following as delegates to the State Conference: J. W. Pittman, W. B. Duke, Jr., Frank E. Smith, Miss Eva Hill, Miss Josie Tompkins, Mrs. A. D. Singletary, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Higginbotham, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Clark, Mrs. May Pittman, Mrs. Jewel Weaver, V. W. Jones and wife, S. E. Lunsford, and Miss Kathleen Lee. We recommend that in case of the absence of any of these that some one present be allowed to fill the absence. These were unanimously elected.

The association adjourned to meet with Youngblood Church on Thursday night before the first Sunday in October, 1927. This church is located on the road between Fairplay and Beckville, Panola county.

Rev. J. P. Brown preached a very able sermon on Saturday night from the first chapter of Jonah. Rev. D. J. Dollar extended thanks of the association to the New Hope church and community for its kindness and hospitality.

Rev. E. S. Jamerson preached to the people Sunday at 11 o'clock. This ended the forty-ninth annual session of the association which we trust was a most profitable session.

E. S. JAMERSON, Moderator.

B. A. WAINWRIGHT, Asst. Moderator.

T. D. ROSS, Clerk.

IRA HARPER, Assistant Clerk.

