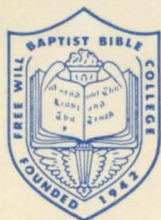


**The
Texas
Association
of
Free Will Baptist**

1944

**Proceedings of the
67th. Annual Session**

**Convened at
Clayton Church**



FREE WILL BAPTIST
BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented By

Rev. Jim Williams

MINUTES
OF THE
SIXTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
TEXAS FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST

HELD WITH

Clayton Church near Carthage, Texas
September 28-29-30, 1944

OFFICERS

Rev. Ira Harper, Moderator.
Christine Jennings, Clerk.

The Sixty-Eighth Annual Session will be held with the
Youngblood Church in Panola, Co., four miles west of
Beckville, Texas. Sept. 29-30 and Oct. 1, 1945.

Free Will Baptist Gem, 211 Bond St. Monett, Missouri

PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Sixty-Seventh Annual Session of the Texas Free Will Baptist Association held with Clayton Church, September 28-29-30, 1944.

First Session

Devotional by Mrs. Ira Harper.

Preaching by Bro. B. A. Grant, scripture, Matthew 10:

7. The theme of the sermon was: What is greatest need of today.

FRIDAY MORNING

Devotional by R. Jimerson, scripture Psalm 128.

Second Session

On motion and second the program was adopted.

Pulpit Supply Committee: Bro. E. S. Jameson, Bro. B. A. Grant and Bro. John H. Fitzgerold.

On motion and second the letters were read and the delegates seated.

On motion and second we adjourned for preaching.

Preaching by Bro. J. B. Lovering, scripture, Hebrew 4:16.

In absence of F. W. Dollar, Bro. J. F. Johnson will lead the devotional for this afternoon.

On motion and second the body adjourned until 1:15

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Devotional by Bro. J. F. Johnson, scripture, The Acts of the Apostles 16.

Third Session

Bro. Ira Harper was elected Moderator.

Bro. B. A. Grant was elected Assistant Moderator.

A prayer by Bro. J. O. Fort for the Assistant Clerk, Mrs. Mary Andrus, whose son is missing in action.

Sister Monnie Freeman was elected Assistant Clerk by acclamation.

On motion and second the letter of Sister Kester was read and was received.

Bro. L. A. Norris was elected the preacher for this evening service.

Bro. J. O. Fort was elected preacher for Saturday morning service.

Bro. J. O. Fort made a talk on the insurance for ministers.

Bro. J. O. Fort gave a discussion on Missions and a brief discussion was made by the body.

Bro. R. Jimerson gave a discussion on Sunday School.

Bro. C. B. Thompson gave a discussion on Foreign Missions.

Fellowship Church asked that Bro J. F. Johnson be examined and if found worthy to be ordained.

On motion and second the body will adjourn until Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING

In absence of Mrs. Douglas Browning, Bro. T. W. Smith lead the devotional, Romans 10:1.

Fourth Session

On motion and second the business of the meeting for this morning will be extended for this afternoon for some very important discussion.

Bro. T. W. Smith gave a discussion on Orphan work.

Bro. C. B. Thompson gave a discussion on the National Program. The discussion was made on education for ministry and for the school in Cuba.

Bro. J. B. Lovering gave a discussion on Education. A brief discussion was made by the body.

Preaching by Bro. J. O. Fort, scripture, John 5:1-9.

An offering was taken for visiting ministers who in turn their own motion and second presented it to the ministers of the Texas Association for a return visit to the Central Texas Association.

On motion and second that the body adjourn until this afternoon.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Devotional by Sister Will H. Hays, 2 Cor. 6:7.

Fifth Session

On motion and second the report on Education to be

adopted. A brief discussion was made by the body.

On motion and second the report on the Standing of Ministry to be adopted.

On motion and second the report on Evangelism to be adopted.

On motion and second the report on Laymen's Council to be adopted.

On motion and second the report on Missions to be adopted. A brief discussion was made on Home Missions Board.

On motion and second the Home Mission Board to be appointed by the Moderator. The Moderator appointed: R. Jimmerson, chairman; W. H. H. Hays, F. W. Dollar; B. A. Grant and A. E. Stoke.

On motion and second the printing of program to be paid for. The program cost \$3.50.

On motion and second the clerk was instructed to have 300 minutes printed.

A brief discussion was made on the delegates that were to go to the State Association.

On motion and second the delegates to be sent to the State Association were: R. Jimmerson, G. O. Parker, Mrs. Gus Smith, Mrs. Will H. Hays, Elzie Selmon, Mrs. Elzie Selmon, F. W. Dollar, Mrs. F. W. Dollar, Sammie Sims, B. Duke, Mrs. B. Duke and Mrs. B. A. Grant.

On motion and second that the Free Will Baptist Association will send eleven dollars to the State Association.

The next session of the Free Will Baptist Association will convene with the Youngblood Church, Thursday night before the first Sunday in October, 1945.

Bro. J. F. Johnson was elected to preach the opening sermon of the Association.

On the recommendation of Fellowship Church, Bro. J. F. Johnson of Tyler, Texas was examined by the ordaining council, composed of Rev's. Ira Harper, B. A. Grant and E. S. Jameson who found him worthy and by prayer and the laying on of hands set him apart to the Gospel Ministry.

No new Standing Committee was appointed, but the Committee of last year is to serve for another year as follows:

Education: E. S. Jameson, G. O. Parker and W. B. Duke.

Laymens Council: W. H. H. Hays, S. S. Sims and Bill Berry.

Standing of Ministry: Fred Curbow, Mrs. Will H. Hays and Mrs. Mildred Beall.

Evangelism: Mrs. Ira Harper, Mrs. Nell Williamson and Miss Georgia Fae Wallace.

Young People: Mrs. Rosie Freeman, Mrs. Cecil Lunsford, Miss Josiphine Young, Mrs. Susie Strong and Mrs. Albert Kelly.

Obituary: Mrs. W. H. Randle, Mrs. Richon McDowell, Mrs. Laura Wilson, Mrs. Bob Lunsford and Mrs. Bill Berry.

Finance: Millard Beall, A. J. Williams and Jim Harold Adams.

Missions: B. A. Grant, Mrs. Henry Curbow, Mrs. Desie Gilliam, Mrs. John Hunt and Mrs. Joe Gray.

Publications: Mrs. Willie Freeman, Miss Thelma Gray and Mrs. Henry Wilson.

Resolutions: J. B. Duke, Miss Emma Birdwell, Miss Bobbie Jennings and Mrs. Effie Harris.

R. Jimmerson expresses a vote of thanks to the Clayton Church for their hospitality.

On motion and second the body will adjourn until Thursday before the first Sunday in October.

Education

We your Committee on Education submit: Lack of education in the right direction has been a great hindrance in the world. As a denomination we have borne our part of it. We are very grateful for the school which is being established and insist that we support to the utmost. We further recommend that all other available means of Christian Education be used: Viz. The Sunday School, League and the reading of our church papers. We recommend that a step be taken to put at least one of our church papers into every home in the church. It seems to us that it would be a happy thing to the denomination if every member would make monthly contributions to our College.

E. S. Jameson, Chairman

Standing of Ministry

While all of our ministers are in good standing. We find that they are greatly overburdened with work, owing to the fact that one is disabled after having all they could do anyway. We recommend that this Association make a special effort to secure ministers for this needy field. We also urge the support of our Bible School that this need be supplied.

Mrs. Will H. H. Hays
Mrs. W. M. Beall

Evangelism

The great need today is Christ in the life of man. Evangelism is a means of supplying this need. The evangelism out in the field of labor can reach only those who come to hear. We all who love the Lord can help to evangelize the world by giving our time and money. Lets do our part to help change this war torn world and take the Gospel to the lost.

Mrs. Ira Harper
Mrs. Nell Williamson

Laymen's Council

We the Committee on Laymen's Council submit: The Laymen's Council has not come to the Association in some time we would recommend a revival of this branch of the Kingdoms work. We recommend each church receive the Laymen's Council and have meetings at least once a month and report their work at each Association.

Will H. H. Hays
S. S. Sims
Bill Berry

Missions

We the Committee on Missions submit: We your Committee on Missions find that there has been very little accomplished in the past few years. We your Committee heartily endorse missions as a world wide program. Matt. 28:19-26 and feel that it's needed today as ever before. We recommend that this Association elect a Home Missions Board consisting of three members. That this Board work in co-operation with other Associational Boards and with the Texas State Board for the further-

ance of the Gospel and the organization of new churches in the State of Texas. We further recommend that monthly pledges for Home Missions be secured at this session, and that the pastors and delegates take this plan to their churches to secure as many pledges as possible for this work. May God help us to know the more we give the greater blessings we will receive.

B. A. Grant

Obituary

We your Committee on Obituary submit: We your Obituary Committee report the following deaths.

Mt. Union—Sister Mollie Barett.

Chalk Hill—Bro. Delbert Kelly.

Yongblood—Bro. John Tompkins.

Mt. Union—Bro. J. A. Lunsford.

Buncomb—Bro. Cecil Russo.

Buncomb—Bro. P. L. Graves.

May God's blessings rest on the families of these our loved ones who have passed on.

To the Texas Association of Free Will Baptists:

(When convened with the Clayton Church in Panola County, September 28-29-30, 1944.)

Dear Ones:

As I will be unable to be present at the Association, I am sending a report of my work for this year. I hope to do more for the Master next year. I shall never be able to repay the good Lord for all His goodness to us. May God bless all of you.

Sick calls, reading and praying with different ones 128
Services 6

Amanda J. Kester

CONSTITUTION

Constitution amended at regular session of the Association.

Article 1. This Association shall be known as the Texas Free Will Baptist Association.

Article 2. It is not the object of this Association to usurp authority over the churches, but to recommend such measures as would promote unity of action among the churches, to harmonize the efforts of the individual churches with one another in their efforts to accomplish good and make each other more

proficient in their good undertakings for good.

Article 3. This Association shall be composed of delegates from the churches, who shall be selected and sent from the churches composing it, and each church shall be entitled to two delegates, and for over fifty and not more than seventy-five members, a Church shall be entitled to one more delegate.

Article 4. Ordained ministers may have seats in the Association and be entitled to privileges of delegates, even when not representing Churches. (As amended).

Article 5. New Churches and ministers may be admitted to membership on application when duly accredited. (As amended)

Article 6. The standing officers of this Association shall be moderator, clerk, treasurer and corresponding secretary.

Article 7. This Association shall hold its sessions once every year, at a time and place specified by a preceeding session.

Article 8. The Association shall have the right to dismiss disorderly Churches and objectionable members at any of its sessions.

Article 9. This Constitution may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, at any regular meeting of the Association.

CHURCH DECORUM

1st. The Church may choose a pastor annually, at the last regular conference in Associational year, or if they prefer, may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time, to continue from year to year so long as he may deem it proper to keep up the connection.

2nd. When it becomes necessary a pastor may be chosen at any time, but if the choice be made at a special conference, the time must be appointed at a monthly meeting of the Church.

3rd. The pastor shall be moderator of the church, but when he is absent, or does not sit as moderator, being present, some suitable brother shall be appointed to sit in his place.

4th. There shall be two or more deacons in the Church, whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and disbursement of all contributions made by the Church for the pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and wine, in administration of the Lord's Supper.

5th. Some suitable member shall be appointed clerk, and it shall be his duty to do the recording and other writing pertaining to the business of the Church, and to perserve a file of

the minutes of the Association.

6th. When a new clerk is appointed, all the book, minutes, etc., belonging to the clerk, shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor.

7th. When the Church deems it necessary, a committee of not less than three male members, well acquainted with business, shall be appointed, whose business it shall be to give advice to brethren who apply to them, relative to cases of dealing, etc., with the Church.

8th. The Church shall hold a two day's meeting monthly embracing Saturday and the Lord's Day following; the first of which shall be the regular time of conference.

9th. 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 special manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and rules of holy living.

10th. Conferences shall be conducted as follows: 1. Prayer, unless Divine services has just been concluded, generally then. 2. Invite visiting brethren to seat. 3. Open a door for the reception of members. 4. Call for absentees. 5. For acknowledgements. 6. For reference of deferred business. 7. For miscellaneous business.

11th. Visiting brethren, as also helps called in from sister Churches, shall be allowed to speak and make motions or seconds, but not allowed to vote.

12th. An orderly member of the Baptist Church, which does not hold this Church in fellowship, may be received into the Church without a letter, when it is 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 persons must join by letter or baptism.

13th. No member shall be received without the unanimous consent of members present; but unreasonable objections shall not be valid, and unless withdrawn, the member who makes them shall be liable to be taken under dealings by the Church.

14th. When the moderator calls for absentees the clerk shall inform the Church what male members have been absent for three successive conferences, and the moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite each of them to the next conference.

15th. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing to attend his trial; provided his resi.

dence is known in the Church.

16th. When a witness not a member of this Church is introduced he shall not be examined until the question has been put to the Church: "Will you hear the testimony of this witness?"

17th. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgment shall be minuted on the Church books.

18th. Members dismissed from the Church by letter, who become disorderly, or continue to hold their letters without a good reason, shall be cited to conference to answer for their conduct.

19th. Expelled members may be restored to fellowship on their petition, if their walk since expulsion has convinced the Church that they have sincerely repented of former evil conduct

20th. A vote shall not be taken upon any question without a motion and second, and in all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.

21st. No motion shall be made while a motion and second is before the conference.

22nd. It shall be considered disorderly for any member to absent himself from a conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member upon his request may be exempted by the Church from the voting on either side in peculiar cases.

23rd. No member shall leave the house during conference without sufficient cause, nor engage in conversation or whispering without subject being called to order by the moderator

24th. All discussion in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling. Those who speak must arise to their feet and address the moderator and keep up to the point in debate.

25th. No one shall speak more than three times on the same motion, without permission from the moderator, nor shall the remarks of any one be unreasonably long.

26th. When the moderator speaks in debate he nominates some brother as moderator in his stead.

27th. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it is necessary to call him to order.

28th. It shall be the rule of the Church to attend to the administration of the Lord's Supper at least four times a year and the expenses are to be paid by the Church.

29th. If consciences of any are tender on the subject of

feet-washing in any Church, they shall not be molested if they see fit to practice it.

30th. The decorum may be altered or amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any two successive monthly conferences.

GOVERNMENT AND ORDINANCES

1. We believe that a Gospel Church, or a Church of Christ, is a congregation of Christians, constituted and governed according to the rules laid down in the New Testament.

2. That the rules require Churches to preserve the form of government and the ordinances of the Christian Churches and to be composed of baptized believers of Christ.

3. That the establishment of a central or Catholic government over the visible Church, or any part thereof, is a device of earthly ambition repugnant to the word of God, subversive of the Churches and dangerous to the liberties of man.

4. That Gospel Churches are the only ecclesiastical bodies or tribunals authorized by the Scriptures; that each Church has the unrestricted right to administer its own government, without suspension or interference, being under Christ, essentially independent and absolute, and that if this right be surrendered to superintending jurisdiction, by delegation or otherwise the assembly then ceases to be a Gospel Church.

5. That the authority of Churches is designed for the perpetuation of true religion to the Gospel, and for the preservation of a pure and orderly body of Christians on earth; that it is fully sufficient for the purposes intended, but that it does not extend to the persons property or consciences of men in any case whatever.

6. That the only requisites to Church membership are faith in Christ and obedience to the Gospel; that faith in Christ necessarily exists in connection with the belief in the fundamental truths of Christianity and that to prescribe any other requisite of Church members is an assumption of authority on the part of the Church, and a departure from the plan of Gospel.

7. That the officers of a Church are elders and deacons; that elders are also called bishops or pastors; that all are equal in rank, though they may perform different functions, since some may be bishops or pastors of particular Churches, while others may be simply elders, having no pastoral charge.

8. That the authority of the minister of the Gospel extends

to teaching, exhortation and rebuke, but no further; that he cannot perform any act which belongs to the authority of the Church, such as reception of members into the Church compact, or the expulsion of offenders; that as a member of the Church he is no more than any other member, and if he is guilty of transgression, he is to be brought before the brethren and convicted or acquitted in the same manner as if he were a private person, yet we think it prudent and proper to call in advisory helps, especially if the minister is to be tried upon charges of heresy.

9. That elders and deacons may be set apart to their office by ordination, the imposition of the hands of the presbytery and prayer.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

OF God.—Article 1. There is one God and Mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in good time.

OF Free Will.—Article 2. We believe that the human will is free, and that all who have heard and who have learned of the Father have the ability to accept or reject the conditions of salvation.

OF Baptism.—Article 3. Mode—And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water.—Matt. 3.

And it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized of John in Jordan.—Mark 1:9.

Buried with Him in baptism, wherein ye are also risen with Him through faith of the operation of God who hath raised Him from the dead.—Col. 2:12.

We are buried with Him in baptism, into death, that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection.—Romans 6:4-5.

For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God.—Col. 3:3.

Subjects.—Go ye therefore and teach all nations—Matt. 28:19
Then they that gladly received His word were baptized—Acts 2:41.

And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in the house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and

all his straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them and rejoiced, believing in God, with all his house.—Acts 16:32-34.

If thou believest with all thine heart thou mayest.—Acts 8:37-39.

Object.—The like figure whereunto baptism doth also now save us (not putting away the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.—1 Peter 3:21.

The Lord's Supper.—Article 4. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup.—1 Cor. 11:28.

This done in remembrance of Me.—Luke 22:19.

The Bible.—Article 5. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.—2 Tim. 3:16.

