

# MINUTES

—of the—

TWENTY-NINETH ANNUAL SESSION

—of the—

*Gaines Creek Association*

—of—

FREE WILL BAPTIST

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HELD WITH SPRING HILL CHURCH,  
AUGUST 15th TO AUGUST 18th, 1940.

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The Intrductory Sermon to be preached next year by  
Rev. Clifford Myers, Rev. Jess Henson, Alternate.

The next session will convene with Spring Hill  
on Thursday night before the second Sunday in Sep-  
tember, A. D., 1941.

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## OFFICERS

Bro. A. R. McCracken, Moderator .....Indianola, Okla.  
Rev. J. R. Evans, Ass't Moderator .....Indianola, Okla.  
Tillie Oliver, Clerk and Treasurer .....Scipio, Okla.  
Bertha Evans, Ass't Clerk .....Indianola, Okla.

## RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting business shall be opened and concluded by prayer by the Moderator or whosoever he may request.
2. Ministers present invited to seat are allowed to take part in debate on all subjects and to vote.
3. Those who speak shall arise and address the Moderator. Personal reflection shall be avoided in all debates.
4. No motion shall be discussed without being seconded.
5. When a motion has been made and seconded and a member opposes its discussion, the Moderator shall put the question, "Shall it be discussed?" If negative the question shall be dismissed.
6. If any proposition as motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and a vote taken.
7. Motion made and lost shall not be recorded.
8. No one shall speak more than twice on any subject without special leave of the Moderator.
9. All questions shall be decided by a majority of the members present.
10. No member shall absent himself without special leave of the Moderator.
11. Minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected before the close of the Association if necessary.
12. In the future meetings of the Association, arrangements shall be made to insure two or more sermons each day or other equivalent devotional exercises.
13. The Rules of Order shall be distinctly read from the chair immediately after the organization of the Association.
14. Alteration may be made in these rules at any regular session of the Association.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. House called to order.
2. Letters called for and adopted.
3. Right hand of fellowship.
4. Election of officers.
5. Reading of Rules of Order.
6. Petitionary letters.
7. Invite visiting brethren to seat in council.
8. Appointment of committees.
9. New business.
10. Report of committees.
11. Miscellaneous business.

## *Proceedings.*

The Twenty-Ninth Annual Session of the Gaines Creek Association met with Spring Hill Church on Thursday night before the third Sunday in August, 1940, A. D.

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### THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Came together by singing, which was followed by a united prayer. Rev. Clifford Myers took charge of the prayer and praise service. A special number in song was given by Bro. Tommie Bynum: "Sleep Mother Sleep."

The message was brought by Rev. Willie Sanders, who used as his theme, "Faith."

Dismissed by Rev. Walter Boyd.

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### FRIDAY MORNING SERVICE

House called to order by Moderator, Rev. J. M. Snowder. Singing by choir. Prayer by Rev. G. M. Everett.

Motion was made that we enter into Conference to transact any business which might come before the body.

Scripture reading by Rev. J. R. Evans. (Matt. 6 chapter).

Moderator called for letters and received:

1. Spring Hill—Brs. R. A. Sparks, Bro. Cecil Nave, Bro. Geo. Cathey, Sister Lelia Bernhardt, Sister Pearl Hobbs. Rev. Willie Sanders, Pastor; Rev. Norman Cathey, Church Clerk.

2. Scipio—Bro. and Sister Grover Kelley, Sister Marie Snyder, Sister Francis Clifton, Bro. Tommie Bynum, Bro. Jim Gilstrap, Bro. John Clifton. Rev. J. E. Yandell, Pastor, Sister Tillie Oliver, Church Clerk.

3. Elm Grove—Bro. Dearwood Disney, Bro. Geo. Holliday, Bro. Fred Herod. Rev. J. R. Evans, Pastor; Bro. Pink Herod, Church Clerk.

4. Blue Mountain—Bro. and Sister Joe Dawson, Sister Nettie Templeton. Rev. J. R. Evans, Pastor; Sister Minnie Gragg, Church Clerk.

5. Tannehill—Bro. Donnie Langham, Sister Vernice Langham, Sister Lelan More. Rev. Clarence Sanders, Pastor; Etta Talbot, Church Clerk.

6. Red Oak—Sister Parkinson, Sister Pryor, Sister H. A. Williams, Sister Hazel Williams, Sister Bernice Small, Sister Mary Pryor. Rev. Jess Henson, Pastor; Sister Leta Sutton, Church Clerk.

7. Nale—Sister Lelia White, Sister Lonie Blevens, Sister White, Rev. J. R. Evans, Pastor; Bro. John Smith, Church Clerk.

Motion made and carried we receive the letters as read, seat the delegates, and make up money for Elm Grove Minutes.

The right hand of fellowship was given all delegates present.

The house now being organized the following officers were elected:

Moderator, Bro. A. R. McCracken; Ass't Moderator, Rev. J. R. Evans; Clerk and Treasurer, Tillie Oliver; Ass't Clerk, Bertha Evans.

The Rules of Order were read by the Assistant Clerk.

Moderator invited visiting members to seat in council and received: Rev. J. E. Yandell, from Roberts McGee Association; Rev. G. M. Everett from Union Sunday School; Rev. L. R. Kampplain, Sister Edith Sherill, Sister Minnie Miller, Bro. Woodie Gray.

Moderator called for letters from new churches and received: 8. Rocky Point—Sister Lula Ratledge, Sister Rena Lott, Sister Ruby Lott, Sister Junita Stuart, Bro. Stanford Butler. Rev. Clarence Sanders, Pastor; Sister Alta Stuart, Church Clerk.

The following Committees were then appointed by Moderator and Assistant:

1. Devotional—Bro. Smith, Bro. H. A. Williams, Sister Marie Snyder.

2. Sabbath Schools—Sister Edith Sherill, Bro. Bud Alford, Sister Lelia White, Rev. Clifford Myers, Bro. Jim Gilstrap.

3. Bill of Arrangements—Rev. J. A. Claxton, Rev. Clarence Sanders, Rev. Walter Boyd.

4. Query and Request—Bro. Grover Kelley, Bro. Dearwood Disney, Rev. Norman Cathey, Sister Etta Talbot, Sister H. A. Williams.

5. Obituary—Bro. Tommie Bynum, Sister Lillian Lott, Sister Lelia Barnhardt, Sister Vernice Langham, Sister Hazel Williams.

6. Ministers' and Deacons' Character and Credentials—Sister Bud Alford, Sister Lula Ratledge, Rev. J. E. Yandell, Rev. G. M. Everett, Rev. L. R. Kampplain.

The business was suspended until 1:30 in the afternoon.

Business session was followed by a short intermission after which congregation came together by singing. Prayer by Sister Lula Ratledge. Rev. G. M. Everett took charge of the praise service.

A special number in song was given by Bro. Tommie Bynum and Sister Marie Snyder: "This World Is Not My Home."

The message was brought by Rev. J. E. Yandell who used as his theme, "Where Are the Dead?", which he very ably discussed. Dismissed by Rev. G. M. Everett.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

House called to order by Moderator. Singing by choir. Prayer by Bro. John Smith. Scripture reading by Rev. J. R. Evans (St. John 17th Chapter).

Moderator took up business where left off before noon, and appointed the following Committees:

7. Finance—Bro. R. A. Sparks, Bro. W. C. Ratledge, Rev. Willie Sanders.

8. Temperance—Rev. Clifford Myers, Rev. Clarence Sanders, Rev. Walter Boyd, Rev. Jess Henson.

9. Resolutions—Rev. Edd Wright, Sister Virgie Kelley, Bro. Edd Clifton.

Due to weather conditions the ordination service was held on on Friday instead of Saturday as is the custom.

The following were ordained from Rocky Point Church: Bro. Jim Meggs and Bro. Sherman Lott, who chose as their Ordaining Council, Rev. G. M. Everett, Rev. Clarence Sanders and Rev. Clifford Myers.

The charge was read by Rev. G. M. Everett (1st Timothy, 3rd Chapter). Rev. Clarence Sanders made the beginning of the prayer, which was continued by Rev. Clifford Myers and concluded by Rev. G. M. Everett.

Moderator called for reports and received:

1. Sabbath Schools—Report received and committee discharged. (See reports).

2. Bill of Arrangements—Report received and committee discharged.

3. Resolutions—Report received and committee retained.

Motion made to suspend business until 9:00 o'clock Saturday morning. Dismissed by Rev. J. M. Snowder.

### FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Come together by singing. Prayer by Rev. J. R. Evans. Rev. Clarence Sanders took charge of the praise service, which was enjoyed by all.

A special number in song was given by the Boyd sisters, Rosetta, Freda, Sylvia and Mildred: "Farther Along."

Rev. G. M. Everett brought the message. Scripture reading Matt. 25th Chapter. Dismissed by Rev. Clarence Sanders.

### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Came together by singing. Prayer by Sister Tillie Oliver. Scripture reading by Rev. Clifford Myers. (James, 1st Chapter).

Elder J. A. Claxton was elected Moderator protem, the Moderator and Assistant being absent.

Moderator called for reports. Motion was made to refer the report on resolutions back to the committee for re-wording.

4. Query and Request—Report rejected and committee dismissed.

5. Obituary—Report received and committee dismissed.

Motion was made to suspend business until 1:30 o'clock. Dismissed by Rev. Clifford Myers.

The business session was followed by a short intermission, after which congregation came together by singing. Prayer by Rev. J. A. Claxton, after which he brought the message, using as his theme, "And Seeing the Multitude He Went Up into a Mountain." (Scripture, Matt. 5:1-16). Dismissed by Rev. Edd Wright.

### SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

House called to order by Moderator. Singing by choir. Prayer by Rev. Jess Henson. Scripture reading by Rev. Clifford Myers (James, 3rd chapter).

Moderator declared business to begin where left off before noon, and the following reports were received.

Resolution Number 6 was received and committee discharged.

6. Temperance—Report received and committee discharged.

Motion made we hold the contract on the land which had been obtained from the City of McAlester for the purpose of centralizing the Association and dismiss the committee which was appointed last year.

The following delegates were elected to represent us in the State Association when convened with Dibble Church, on Tuesday night before the 4th Sunday in October, 1940, A. D. To-wit:

Rev. Clifford Myers, Rev. J. R. Evans, Bro. A. R. McCracken. Alternates, Bro. H. A. Williams, Bro. Bud Alford, Rev. Jess Hanson.

Corresponding delegates were elected to represent us in the Eureka Association, to-wit: Sister Marie Snyder, Rev. Edd Wright, Bro. Jim Gilstrap.

The next session of the Association will convene with Spring Hill Church.

The 5th Sunday meetings were then located as follows: 1st, Elm Grove; 2nd, Blue Mountain; 3rd, Red. Oak; 4th, Scipio.

Motion made and carried the next session of the Association will convene on Thursday night before the second (2nd) Sunday in September, 1940, A. D.

Rev. Clifford Myers was re-elected to serve on the evangelistic board. The board is as follows: H. A. Williams, Canadian, (Okla.; Chairman (two years to serve); Rev. J. R. Evans, Indianola, (1 year to serve); Rev. Clifford Myers, Scipio, (3 years to serve).

Rev. Clifford Myers was elected to preach the introductory sermon at the next session of the Association, Rev. Jess Henson, Alternate.

Minutes were approved as written and Clerk given power to have them printed.

Rev. Jess Henson was asked to express our thanks to the Spring Hill community for hospitality shown us throughout the Association.

Motion carried to adjourn to meet with Spring Hill Church on Thursday night before the 2nd Sunday in September, 1941.

Dismissed by Bro. Bud Alford.

Moderator—Bro. A. R. McCracken.

Clerk—Tillie Oliver.

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### SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Came together by singing. Prayer by Rev. L. R. Kampplain. Sister Bertha Evans took charge of prayer and praise service. The message was brought by Rev. Jess Henson, who used as his theme, "The Rich and Poor Meet Together, Prepare to Meet Thy God." (Scripture, Amos 4:6). Dismissed by Rev. Clifford Myers.

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### COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Devotional—We, your Committee, beg leave to report as follows: We ask that Rev. G. M. Everett take charge of praise service, and Rev. J. E. Yandell bring the message Friday morning. Rev. Clarence Sanders to conduct the praise service and Rev. G. M. Everett bring the message Friday night. Rev. J. A. Claxton to bring the message Saturday at 11:00. Sister Bertha Evans to have charge of praise service and Rev. Jess Henson to bring the message Saturday night. Rev. Clifford Myers to have charge of the Memorial Service Sunday.

Sister Marie Snyder, Chairman.

2. Sabbath Schools—We, your Committee, beg leave to report as follows: We request that every Christian man or woman help to establish and maintain a Sabbath School in their community and furthermore talk to parents in regard to Sabbath School.

We recommend Union Literature be used in rural communities.

We realize the Sabbath School is a great means of impressing Christ upon the public.

Sister Edith Sherrill, Chairman.

3. Bill of Arrangements—We, your Committee, beg leave to report as follows: Be it resolved that each pastor preach and practice tithing as taught in 1st Cor. 16:2, 2nd Cor. 9:5-6-7, Matt. 3:10.

We request that each member of the respective churches pay one dollar a year to the Clerk or Treasurer of the Association for evangelistic work.

Rev. J. A. Claxton, Chairman.

4. Query and Request—(Report rejected).

5. Obituary—We, your Committee, beg leave to report as follows: We sorrow because of the loss of our dear brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray the richest blessings rest upon the broken hearted.

From Scipio Church—Sister Callie Gilstrap passed away September 7, 1939.

From Spring Hill Church—Sister Eliza Hogan, passed away in November, 1939.

From Nale Church—Bro. Tom Wood, Sister Denney.

Bro. Tommie Bynum, Chairman.

6. Ministers' and Deacons' Character and Credentials—We, your Committee, beg leave to report as follows: Having examined credentials of all present, find them legally ordained and in good standing.

Rev. G. M. Everett, Chairman.

7. Finance—We, your Committee, beg leave to report: We find each Church has paid the sum opposite their names:

1. Spring Hill, \$1.10. 2. Scipio, \$2.00 3. Blue Mountain, \$2.15. 4. Tannehill, \$2.00 5. Red Oak, \$2.00 6. Nale, \$2.00. 7. Rocky Point, \$2.50. 8. Elm Grove—money Collected—\$1.29. Total, \$15.04.

Rev. R. A. Sparks, Chairman.

8. Temperance—We, your Committee, beg leave to report as follows: We adopt last year's report. Old report: That we strictly abstain from breaking the Sabbath, such as hunting and fishing. Temperance implies that we should be free from intoxicating drinks of any kind, that we use our efforts to get rid of whiskey and its makers by communicating with enforcement officers. That we should not contract indecent habits in our divine services such as some deceivers of our land are doing, and thereby the influence of the true Gospel is weakened.

That we adhere to temperance in the highest Bible sense. That we abstain from the very appearance of evil.

Rev. Jess Henson, Chairman.

9. Resolutions—We, your Committee, beg leave to report as follows:

Resolution No. 1—Resolved, That we as the Gaines Creek Association, express our confidence in Rev. G. M. Everett, Missionary, for the American Sunday School Union, and that we recommend our Churches use the American Union Sunday School literature where it is not possible to use Free Will Baptist literature.

Number 2—Resolved, we adopt a Religious Educational program into our Churches and request that as many of our Churches as possibly can, hold a daily Vacation Bible School during the year for children.

Number 3—Resolved, That we adopt into our Association a Young Peoples' program and that each young peoples' society be given a representation in our Association, that we appoint a Superintendent over the young peoples' work who shall organize societies in each of our Churches, and that delegates be elected each year and given a place in the Association.

Number 4—That the Association be de-centralized.

Number 5—Resolved, That members be received by the will of the body only. For we believe the body is the power.

Number 6—Let it be resolved that this Association request only Free Will Baptists on Ordaining Councils.

### OUR MINISTERS AT ASSOCIATION

1. Rev. J. R. Evans .....Indianola, Okla.
2. Rev. Clifford Myers .....Scipio, Okla.
3. Rev. Willie Sanders .....Canadian, Okla.
4. Rev. Clarence Sanders .....Canadian, Okla.
5. Rev. J. A. Claxton .....Crowder, Okla.
6. Rev. Norman Cathey .....Route No. 1, N. McAlester, Okla.
7. Rev. Jess Henson .....Haywood, Okla.
8. Rev. Walter Boyd .....McAlester, Okla.
9. Rev. J. M. Snowder .....Scipio, Okla.
10. Rev. R. L. Wright .....Indianola, Okla.

### VISITING MINISTERS

- Rev. J. E. Yandell .....Red Oak, Okla.  
Rev. G. M. Everett .....McAlester, Okla.  
Rev. T. R. Kampllain .....Route No. 1, N. McAlester, Okla.

### FORM OF CHURCH CONFERENCE

- 1—Call Church Conference.
- 2—Call for peace of Church.
- 3—Call for visiting brethren to seats in Council.
- 4—Reading of minutes of previous meeting.
- 5—Unfinished Business.
- 6—New Business.
- 7—Are any sick or in distress?
- 8—What has been done for the support of the Ministry and other incidental expenses?



# CHURCH REPORTS

| Churches      | Pastors          | Church Clerk  | Paid Pastors | No. Members | State of Religion |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Blue Mountain | J. R. Evans      | Minnie Gragg  | \$20.00      | 30          | Fair              |
| Red Oak       | Jess Henson      | Leta Sutton   | 23.40        | 97          | Fair              |
| Scipio        | J. E. Vandell    | Tillie Oliver | 94.60        | 186         | Fair              |
| Spring Hill   | Willie Sanders   | Norman Cathey | 9.58         | 25          | Fair              |
| Nale          | J. R. Evans      | John Smith    | 20.00        | 44          | Fair              |
| Tannehill     | Clarence Sanders | Etta Talbot   | 20.50        | 24          | Fair              |
| Elm Grove     | J. R. Evans      | Pink Herod    |              | 30          | Good              |
| Rocky Point   | Clarence Sanders | Alta Stuart   |              | 29          | Good              |
| TOTAL         |                  |               | \$198.08     | 465         |                   |

## CONSTITUTION

From the long experience, we, the members of the Free Will Baptist Church of God, being regularly baptised upon a profession of our faith in Jesus Christ, and being convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches to perpetuate a union and communion among us and to preserve and maintain a correspondence with each other, do therefore ordain this constitution for our better church government.

1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by different churches in our union not exceeding one delegate out of ten from each church and on producing letters shall be entitled to seats.

2. Letters from different churches are to express the number in fellowship, the manner received by experience, letters of recommendation, the number dismissed, excluded, restored and those who have died since the Association.

3. The members thus chosen and convened to be denominated the Gaines Creek Association of Free Will Baptists, being composed for sundry churches in the Gaines Creek Association—the ass'n having no power to lord it over God's heritage nor to have any ecclesiastical power over the churches, reserving the right of withdrawing from any church becoming disorderly.

4. The Association to have a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who are to be chosen by suffrage of the members present.

5. Newly constituted churches may be admitted to the Association who are to petition by letter and delegates and if upon examination they are found to be orthodox and orderly, they may be received into the Association, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

6. No question from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has first been discussed in its own church.

7. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

8. The Association is to endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of the Association in proportion to the number of members in each church, the distribution being at the discretion of the Association.

9. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes of the Association on a book to be kept by the Association for this purpose.

10. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected if needed, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the close of the Association.

11. Amendments to the Constitution may be made when necessary by a majority of the members present.

Resolved, that we earnestly request all of our ministers and deacons and churches composing this Association to co-operate with each other and to assist in every way they can to help further the gospel and that each church should help their pastor and if an evangelist should visit any destitute place and organize churches that we urge upon the people to assist the Evangelist so he can go and preach the word.

## ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in one true and living God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost and these three are one in divine essence, power and glory. Romans 1:20, John 1:17, 17:21.

2. We believe that the Scripture of the Old and New Testament is the word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. Second Timothy 3:16, Matt. 5:18.

3. We believe that God created man good and gave him Holy Commandments whereby he should live holy but man voluntarily disobeyed the Commandments of God, transgressed the law and fell under the just condemnation of the same, whereby all mankind are sinners, not by constraint but by choice, being partakers of the sinful nature attained by the fall, and that man is unable to save himself with his own power, but we see Jesus for the suffering of death crowned with glory, that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man. Gen. 3:17, Heb. 2:9.

4. We believe that Christ by His death, suffering and resurrection purchased our pardon and offered it freely to all mankind upon principles of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He now commands all men everywhere to repent therefore, He sayeth, "Look unto me and be saved, all ends of the earth for I am God and there is none else". Matt. 4:17, Isa. 45:22, Acts 20:20-21.

5. We believe that adult persons must be regenerated and born of the spirit of God. Jonah 4:11, Mark 10:14. Deut. 1:39.

6. We believe that all Christians must preserve in grace and be faithful to the end if they inherit eternal life, for blessed are they that do His Commandments that they may have the right to the tree of life and enter through the gates into the city. Rev. 22:14, Matt. 24:13.

7. We believe that baptism by immersion is the apostolic mode; even the burial of a believer in water, and that Christ, who is our life, showed his humble example to His children and bids us walk therein. John 3:22, Romans 6:34-45, Matt. 28:19-20, Matt. 3:16.

8. We believe that God in His goodness displays His power of grace in great degree in calling and qualifying His servants by the teaching of the Holy Ghost and by the instruction of His word to go forth and proclaim life and salvation without price. He bids us freely come and nothing prevents the salvation of any but their stubborn rebellion and sinful refusal to come. I Cor. 12:13, Eph. 3:7, Rev. 22:17.

9. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper and washing the Saint's feet are divine ordinances and should be observed by all His children. Mark 14:22-23, John 13:4-14, Matt. 28:19-20, I Tim. 5:10.

10. We believe that none have a right to baptism, only those who have a living hope in the Lord Jesus Christ, and none have the right to administer the same only those who have come under the hands of the presbytery of elders, and each church ought to have a pastor, deacons, and clerks chosen by the church, ought to have office during the good pleasure of same in dealing with disorderly members, reference should be had to the 18th chapter of Matthew and other scriptures relative to dealing with disorderly members. In all cases a majority shall rule, except in receiving members, and then it must be unanimous. Titus 1:5, Acts 14:23, II Cor. 6:6.

12. We believe it is the duty of each church to assemble themselves together once a month and that it is the duty of the pastor of the church when sitting forth the Lord's Supper and washing the Saint's feet to let a man "examine himself and so let him eat." I Cor. 11:28, John 13:14.

13. We believe that the sanctification and Holiness is a Bible doctrine, that immortality is God dwelling in the light, so when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption and this mortal shall have put on immortality then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written. "Death swallowed up in victory." That it is our duty to be tender and affectionate to one another and to study the happiness of the people of God in general and to be singly engaged to promote the honor and glory of God. Gal. 6:10, I John 2:9.

14. We believe in the resurrection of the dead of both the just and the unjust; the resurrection of the just to glory and immortality in the presence of God; the unjust to the everlasting shame and banishment from the presence of God. Matt. 25:31, I Cor. 15:42-45, Thes. 1:10, Rev. 20:12-13.

### CHURCH COVENANT

Having been brought, as we humbly trust, by divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and having thus obtained justification by Faith in His name, we, as members of the several churches that constitute Gaines Creek Association of Free Will Baptists, adopt the following as our Church Covenant:

1. To watch over each other in love, to pray for each other as members of a common faith ever striving to keep the unity of spirit in the bonds of peace.

2. We will not speak evil of each other nor will we persecute or expose the faults of the weak members of our church; but will endeavor to be governed by Paul's instruction to Timothy, "That we will approve, rebuke and exhort" each other as members of a common brotherhood.

3. We are commanded to do good unto all men, especially to those who are of the household of faith. But we should remember that our relations to each other are closer and the obligations more binding than that of a common bond of Christian Charity. In adopting this Covenant, we became as a family and assume in a Christian sense the care and responsibility that the members of a family should feel for each other.

4. We will attend the stated meetings of our church unless we are providentially hindered, or uncontrollable circumstances prevent us. And we will contribute of our means as the Lord has prospered us for the support of our pastor and other necessary expenses of our church. And we will prefer the service of our own church to that of any other and will pray for our pastor while he is preaching the word of God to us.

5. We will not injure our influence in the house of the Lord by occupying seats among the ungodly and sinners; but will occupy seats near the pulpit and use the ~~natural~~ <sup>natural</sup> powers which the Lord has given us to praise His holy name. We will sing with those who sing and pray with those who pray.

6. We will not be guilty of the sin of Sabbath breaking by making visits to our neighbors, which is a double sin against the law of God for in so doing we fail to attend the house of the Lord

and hinder those who might wish to do so. Let us remember the law of Moses which condemns Sabbath breaking, and the words of the inspired apostle which says, "Forsake not the assembling of yourself together as in the manner of some is."

7. We will not neglect secret and public prayers and those of us who are heads of families will strive to dedicate our household to the service of God by teaching our children the great necessity of the Christian religion as the only hope of happiness after death. We will adopt the covenant of Joshua, the servant of the Lord, and say, "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

### LETTER OF DISMISSAL

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

Done in Church conference this..... day of.....  
....., 19.....  
....., Pastor ..... Clerk

### FORM OF CHURCH LETTER

Post Office....., Date.....

We, the Church of God (denominated) Free Will Baptist worshipping at....., met in Conference and elected the following delegates to represent us in the Gaines Creek Association when convened with..... Church, whom we pray you to seat to aid in all your deliberations, to-wit:.....  
.....

### STATISTICS

State of Religion..... Sunday School.....  
Prayer Meeting..... Meeting Days.....  
We paid our Pastor Eld..... Paid Evangelist.....  
Called Eld..... as our Pastor for the ensuing year.  
Ordained as Deacons..... Received by Confession.....  
By Letter..... Resident Members..... Non Resident  
Members..... Total Membership..... We ask for  
the next session of the.....  
We ask for the 1st..... 2nd..... 3rd..... 4th.....  
Quarterly Meeting. We send \$..... Minute money.  
Eld..... Moderator.  
..... Church Clerk.

