



1983 MINUTES OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

The General Conference of Original Free Will Baptists was held with Sandy Plain Free Will Baptist Church, Pink Hill, North Carolina, June 20, 21, 22, 1983; the Rev. Ransom McAbee, host pastor.

Conference officers for 83-84: president, the Rev. Steve Hargrove; vice president, the Rev. Mike Scott; treasurer, the Rev. Joe Griffith; secretary, the Rev. Jack Lassiter.

The General Board includes the forenamed officers, and the Revs. Jackie Godwin, Ransom H. McAbee, Arnold Price, Wayne Watson, Harry A. Jones, Tom Price, David Jarrell; the Credentials Committee, the Revs. Stanley Buck, Ransom McAbee; the Chaplain's Committee, the Revs. T. C. Farmer, Mike Scott, Ronnie Mohn.

TUESDAY NIGHT, JUNE 21, 1983

The Conference began at 7:00 p.m. with special singing by the Limestone Singers from the host church.

After several inspiring hymns, the devotion was given by the Rev. Ronnie Mohn. His Scripture came from Hebrews 1:1, 2 and 2:1; he closed his devotions with prayer.

The Conference was opened by the Rev. Steve Hargrove, the Conference secretary, with the Rev. John Owens, the Conference president, presiding. Brother Owens made a few remarks to encourage the Conference. He then asked all ministers to stand, then all deacons, and all the delegates.

The Rev. Ransom McAbee, pastor of the church, gave the welcome, encouraging everyone to enjoy the services. The response was given by the Rev. M. E. Cox.

Committees were appointed as follows: *Nominating Committee*, Mike Scott, Jackie Godwin, Noah Brown; *Obituary Committee*, George Green, Ronnie Mohn, Buddy Rogers; *Resolutions Committee*, Joe Griffith, Jerry Campbell, Walter Sutton.

The partial report of the Credentials Committee was given: Churches—34, Ministers—24, Delegates—13, Visitors—37, Offerings—\$565.

An offering was received. There being no old business, the Rev. Arnold Price led the congregation in a hymn, "The Old Rugged Cross."

Enterprises representing at the Conference were: Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Retirement Homes, Mount Olive College, Free Will Baptist Press.

The president introduced the speaker of the hour, the Rev. Mike Scott. Brother Scott gave his testimony of how grateful he was that God had saved him, and that God's strength is sufficient to keep him.

Brother Scott's message shared with us three different landmarks. The first, from Proverbs 22:28, is a barrier, a land boundary marker. God had commanded that these landmarks were not to be moved. We think about the spiritual landmarks that God himself has established.

The second landmark is the blood atonement. Many separate themselves from His blood religion, but Jesus said, "There is no remission of sin apart from the blood of Christ." (See Matthew 26:28.) Only by the shedding of the blood of Jesus will we see the Father.

The third landmark is the blessed hope spoken of in Titus 2:13, the eternal abode of the believer. There are those who discredit this hope. They say that we will just flutter around like a hummingbird going from flower to flower in a maze. Jesus said that He has gone to prepare a mansion for us, and one day we will dwell in the new Jerusalem.

Take heed—God has set up spiritual landmarks that we are not to move; if so it would be woe unto us.

Brother Scott closed with prayer.

The Rev. John Owens gave an invitation. We sang "Are You Washed in the Blood," led by the Rev. Arnold Price. After some response around the altar, Brother Owens requested for all ordained

ministers and deacons to come and pray for a special request. After a good season of prayer, a motion to adjourn was in order. The service closed with all standing, raising hands and singing the chorus "Praise God."

Refreshments were served in the fellowship building by the host church.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 22

The session began at 9:45 a.m. with special singing by the Revs. Ransom McAbee and Dean Kennedy. The congregation then sang, "When We All Get to Heaven" and "At Calvary."

Devotion was given by the Rev. Jackie Godwin, reading Scripture from John 6:9 and Mark 10. Brother Godwin closed his devotions with prayer.

The Rev. Arnold Price and his wife, Jan, led in a congregational hymn as the offering was received. The Rev. Dean Kennedy led the offertory prayer.

The Rev. John Owens, Conference president, gave the president's message. Brother Owens read his Scripture from John 17. He made mention of how Paul instructed Timothy to pray for those in leadership positions. All our leaders need prayer. "Thinking about prayer, I look at the Day of Pentecost and see that there is something distinct about the disciples. That is, you cannot find true discipleship anywhere but together. They had the same prayer, the same desire and they sought the same power to come upon them. I believe if you and I are going to do anything for Jesus, we must seek Pentecost, surrendering under the power Jesus said that He would send. If we as a Conference ever receive what we have an objective to and have a foresight for, in the spirit of humanity, in saving the souls of the lost, then we are going to have to depend on Pentecost.

"We need to be reminded at Pentecost there was no disobedience, there was no separation of men and women. Everyone was together and in accord."

The final report of the Credentials Committee was given. Upon proper motion the Credentials Committee report was accepted. (See Reports.)

The Resolutions Committee gave their report. Upon proper motion to wait until after the Treasurer's report was given, it was then accepted.

The Obituary Committee reported. The report was given by the Rev. Ronnie Mohn, who read from 2 Timothy 4:5-8 and closed with prayer. Upon proper motion the report was accepted.

The Treasurer's report was given by the Rev. Sam Weeks. Upon proper motion his report was accepted.

Upon proper motion the first resolution of the Resolutions Committee was accepted. (See Reports.)

Upon proper motion, the Rev. Charles Crisp, Home Missions Director, was nominated to represent the General Conference to the Georgia churches, and the Rev. Arnold Price to represent the General Conference to the churches in West Virginia. Motion carried.

Upon proper motion the second resolution was accepted. (See Reports.)

The Nominating Committee report was given, and there being no nominations from the floor, the report was accepted by acclamation. (See Reports.)

Floor was opened for other reports, but none were given.

There was special music by the Rev. Arnold Price and Jan, his wife, before our Conference message.

The Conference message was brought to us by the Rev. Ransom McAbee. His Scripture was from 1 Corinthians 11:17. "The church is tired of hearing previously published sermons memorized or those written down and read off. The church wants to hear messages from God. There is much confusion among the Free Will Baptist people, grumbling because everything doesn't go the way they want it to. There are many people who say that they are divine healers, but that is not so because God is the only Divine Healer. He will heal if we have the faith. Faith is what makes God work. There is much division in the ministering of the Word of God because of the different views of the Scriptures. If we are of the Holy Spirit there will be no confusion, no division, because in Christ we are one." The message closed with gathering around the altar.

President John Owens gave his appreciation for the years he has served as an officer to the Conference. He then recognized the outgoing officers, who were given a rising vote of thanks for their service. The incoming officers were recognized as they came and stood before the congregation.

The former president turned the remainder of the service over to the new president, the Rev. Steve Hargrove. Brother Hargrove asked for prayer for himself and the other new officers and stated that they would welcome any suggestions of how we could better our General Conference.

Upon proper motion to adjourn the meeting was dismissed with the singing of the first and second verses of "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

REPORTS

FINAL REPORT OF CREDENTIALS AND DIGEST COMMITTEE

Ministers	33
Delegates	21
Church Letters	42
Visitors	44
Total offering	\$819.96

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on hand at beginning of 183 session	\$360.57
Money taken in in 1983	\$819.96
Conference expenses (1983)	<u>\$550.73</u>
Balance	\$629.80

OBITUARY COMMITTEE

We, the Obituary Committee, give tribute to any that have passed on to be with God. Those whom we know of are

Walter Stanley, Herman Wooten, Taylor Hill, Beverly Ballard, and Hillary Minchew. Scripture was read from 2 Timothy 4:5-8 by the Rev. Ronnie Mohn.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

1. In view of the fact that the General Conference is not represented by churches from West Virginia, Georgia, and other areas, and in view of the fact that the General Conference desires to have these people present as a part of this great work; BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Board of this Conference plan a good will tour among these people and that the General Conference cover the expenses.

2. We, the Resolutions Committee, resolve that the Conference extend a rising vote of thanks and appreciation for the hospitality shown by the Sandy Plain Free Will Baptist Church.

THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

The General Conference Convention met at Sandy Plain Free Will Baptist Church, Pink Hill, North Carolina, June 20, 21 and 22, 1983.

MONDAY NIGHT, JUNE 20

Youth night began at 7:30 p.m. Pam Kennedy led the congregation in several songs which were enjoyed by both young and old. The opening prayer was by the Rev. Dean Kennedy. Devotions were given by Rocky Kennedy. The theme, "A Place of Security for Everyone Who Is a Believer," was taken from Psalm 91:1-4.

The Bible Bowl Quiz was very exciting and inspiring to everyone. Questions were presented by Edna Fowler, Youth Chairman.

AFC First Place Winners: Pee Dee District—Beaverdam Church

Second Place: Albemarle District—Shiloh Church

Third Place: Central District—Elm Grove Church

YFA First Place Winners: Pee Dee District—Beaverdam Church

Second Place: Western District—Pine Level Church

Beaverdam AFC Team: Kim Buffkin, Starr Cribb, Mechelle McPherson, and Lisa Walton

Shiloh AFC Team: Mandy Benson, Holly Hamilton, Theresa Jackson, and Tracy Walson

Elm Grove AFC Team: Missy Bryan, Paula Hargrove, Lisa Jones, and Sara Jones

Beaverdam YFA Team: Kendal Buffkin, Ann Hinson, Abby McPherson, and Jamy McPherson

Pine Level YFA Team: Pam Crocker, Mark Jones, and Wanda Jones

Trophies were presented by Rachel Duncan, president of the General Conference Woman's Auxiliary. In addition to the trophies, the AFC First-place team received \$10, and the YFA First-place team received \$50.

Mrs. Fowler announced that questions will be taken from Genesis 1-15 next year. Benediction was given by the Rev. Ransom McAbee, pastor of the host church.

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 21

The nineteenth session of the General Conference Woman's Auxiliary opened with congregational singing led by the Rev. Arnold Price. Welcome was given by Edna McAbee. Response was by Wilma Hall.

Devotions were by Rudene Kennedy, using Scripture from Hebrews 10:35, 36.

The Convention was declared in session by Diana Lyons, secretary. Rachel Duncan, president, recognized officers, delegates, ministers and visitors. In her remarks, Mrs. Duncan reminded us that "We as Christians should be the happiest and most thankful people in the world."

The minutes were read and approved. Resolutions and Hospitality Committees were appointed. Edna Fowler gave the Youth Report, and urged each church to encourage their youth to participate in the Bible Bowl Quiz and other activities.

Special singing was rendered by the Rev. Arnold Price, and his wife, Jan. This was followed by some beautiful testimonies. The message was presented by Rachel Lampley of Piedmont District. She spoke on "House upon the Rock or the Sand." Scripture was taken from Matthew 7:24-27 and Isaiah 26:4.

The morning session adjourned for a delicious lunch served by the host church.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 21

The afternoon session opened with a hymn led by Rachel Lampley. The pianist was Carolyn Bennett. Irene Morris gave our devotion and prayer. Her message was based on Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus. Our special singing, message, and devotions were all very inspiring, and the touch of the Holy Spirit could be felt by everyone during the service.

A very warm and spiritual testimony time was enjoyed at the end of the service.

The treasurer, Dola Dudley, gave a financial and registration report:

Officers 6: Ministers 19: Delegates 22: Churches reporting 26.



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