MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Jasper Free-Will Baptist Association

CONVENED WITH

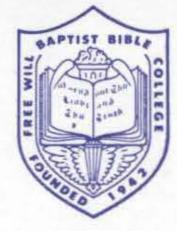
Gum Springs Church, Marion County, Alabama. SEPTEMBER 28, 29 AND 30, 1916.

Officers:

Rev. John L. Conner	Moderator
Robert Franks	Clerk
John A. Nelson	Treasurer

The next session of this Association will be held with Mt. Olive Church, five miles east of Guin Station, on the Frisco R.R., Marion County, Ala., and will convene on Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 1917.

Cullman Printing Company,
Job and Book Printers,
Cullman, Alabama.
1916



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented By

Wayne Martin

PROCEEDINGS

The Thirtieth Annual Session of the Jasper Free Will Baptist Association convened with Gum Springs Church, Marion County, Ala., September 28, 29 and 30, 1916. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. James J. Wesley. The text used was Hebrews 12th chapter and 1st verse. After preaching, an intermission of one hour was taken for rest and refreshments, after which the ministers and delegates were requested to meet in the house, organize, and proceed to business.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met in the house pursuant to adjournment. Singing

by the congregation; prayer by Rev. P. T. Keeton.

The Moderator of the former session, Rev. E. C. Thomas, being present, took his seat. The former Clerk being absent, the Moderator appointed Robert Franks, Clerk pro tem. The Moderator called the house to order and business was transacted as follows:

1st. Rev. P. T. Keeton and Bro. J. L. Eades appointed reading

clerks.

2nd. Letters from the churches called for, handed in and read and contents noted as per statistical table.

3rd. Called for petitionary letters and opened the door for the re-

ception of new churches into the body. None presented.

4th. On motion it was agreed to permanently organize the body which was done by electing Rev. John L. Conner, Moderator; Bro. Robert Franks Clerk, and Bro. John A. Nelson, Treasurer, for the ensuing associational

5th. Called for correspondence from sister Associations and received the following, viz: From the Morning Star Association, Rev. J.W. Moore and Bro. P. C. Pike. Bro. G. W. Hollis from the Cahaba River Association. Rev. J. W. Porter from the Vernon Association. These brethren were cordially received and welcomed to seats with us, and it is good and pleasant for brethren to dwell together in peace and union.

6th. On motion, agreed that the Moderator appoint all the committees,

and the following were appointed:

7th. On Preaching -Bros. J. H. Tharp, J. T. lngle, and H. H.

Breakefield with the Deacons of this Church.

8th. On Documents and Order of Business-Revs. James J. Wesley, E. C. Thomas and M. R. Martin with the Moderator and Clerk.

9th. On Sabbath Schools-Rev. James E. Cochran, H. T. Warren

and W. C. Pearce. 10th. Denominational Literature-Rev. Wm. D. Martin, J. A.

Beazeley, J. T. Tharp and Rev. B P. Harris. 11th. On Deceased Ministers and Members-Rev. Geo. W. Flippo,

J. L. Eades and Rev. P. T. Keeton 12th. On Finance-Bros. J. W. White, J. W. Westbrook and J.B.

Keeton.

13th. On Associational Funds-Bros. J. W. Burleson, Sam N. Elliott and W. B. Hollis.

14th. Committee on Preaching reports that Rev. G. W. Flippo preach tonight; and Rev. John W. Porter, of the Vernon Association preach tomorrow at 11 o'clock Respectfully submitted, J.H. THARP, Chairman.

15th. On motion the report was adopted and committee discharged. 16th. On motion the Association adjourned to meet Friday morning

at 8 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. John L. Conner.

Thursday night at 7 o'clock, Rev. R. S. Pennington filled the appointment of Rev. G. W. Flippo and preached to a well attentive congregation. Text St. John 2nd chapter, verse not given.

FRIDAY MORNING, SEPT. 29, 8 O'CLOCK.

17. The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The opening service conducted by the Moderator, after which he called the body to order and requested the Clerk to call the roll, and the ministers and delegates answered to their names. A quorum being present the proceedings of Thursday read, corrected and adopted.

18. On motion, visiting ministers of other denominations were in-

vited to take seats with us. None present.

19. Reports of committees were called for and presented in the following order, viz:

20 ON DOCUMENTS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS.

We, your committee on Documents and Order of Business beg to report as follows:

1. We find four petitionary letters asking for the next association,

and we recommend it be left to the decision of the body.

2. We recommend the association convene on Saturday before the

first Sunday in October each year as formerly.

3. We recommend that Pleasant Hill church make satisfaction with the Cahaba River Association and report to the next session of the Jasper Free-will Baptist Association or suffer the consequences.

Section 3 rescinded.

4. We recommend that the Clerk superintend the printing of the minutes, having the work done to the best advantage, and have \$7.50 for his service out of the minute funds.

5. We recommend that this Association refuse to recognise the future work of Rev. E. A. Palmer until he makes satisfaction with his for-

mer Association.

6. And we further recommend that Rev. B. P. Harris be ordained at this Association and that the Clerk be authorized to write his credentials.

Respectfully submitted,

REV, J. J. WESLEY, Chairman.

On motion, the report was adopted and committee discharged.

21. ON DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE.

We, your committee on Literature, report as follows: By careful investigation of our churches that have organized Sunday Schools, we find that very few of them use our literature which is published by the Free-will Baptist Publishing Co., at Ayden, N. C. We urgently insist that all of our Sabbath Schools use the Free-will Baptist literature, with the prayerful study of the Bible, for it is the rule and guide to our immortal souls.

Respectfully submitted,

REV. W D MARTIN, Chairman.

On motion, the report was adopted and committee discharged.

22. ON SABBATH SCHOOLS

We, your committee on Sabbath Schools, report as follows: We find five churches have a good, live Sunday School which is a great aid to the church. These churches are Union Hill, Union Chapel, Gum Springs, Liberty, Pleasant Hill and Shady Grove. We urge that the members and pastors of the different churches do all they can to erect a good Sunday School in each church in the Jasper Association. Brethren, we ask that you do not neglect so great a work. Respectfully submitted,

On motion, the report was adopted and committee discharged.

23. ON FINANCE.

We, your committee on Finance, report as follows, viz: We find paid in from the various churches as a minute fund \$21.20, balance from W W Hudson last year \$7.50, total amount \$28.70.

Respectfully submitted,

J W WESTBROOK, Chairman.

On motion, the report was accepted and committee discharged.

On motion, the Association adjourned for preaching, and to meet at 2 o'clock. Prayer by the Moderator, Rev. John L Conner.

At 11 o'clock Rev. J W Porter, of the Vernon Association, preached to a large congregation, his text 1 Peter 3rd Chap. a part of 18th verse.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Singing by the congregation and prayer by Brother E R Franks. The Moderator called the body to order and called for unfinished business as follows, viz:

24. ON ASSOCIATIONAL FUNDS.

We, your committee on Associational Funds, submit the following report: Received from the different churches \$4.55, and \$6.57 from the delegates as a private collection; total \$11.37.

SAM N ELLIOTT & J W BURLESON, Chairman. On motion, the report was adopted and committee discharged.

25. TREASURER'S REPORT

The amount left in my hands October 1, 1915, was \$122.45, interest on \$82.40, \$6.59, which makes the amount \$129.04. The amount received at this session is \$11.37, total \$140.41; paid Rev. E. C. Thomas \$6.00 and J. A. Nelson \$5.00, public collection \$15.00, grand total now on hand \$144.41.

Respectfully submitted,

J A NELSON, Treasurer.
On motion, the report was received and adopted.

26. ON DECEASED MINISTERS AND MEMBERS.

We your committee on deceased ministers and members report as follows: Since our last Association death has entered the pales of our churches and removed therefrom as follows: From Mt. Olive Church, Bro. Joseph E. Green and Sister S. A. Burleson, ages not given. Mt. Pleasant church, Sister Betsie Berryhill, age about 60 years. Friendship Church, Samantha Terrell, age 91 years, 2 months and 14 days; Hattie Arthur, age 35 years, 1 month and 18 days; Sister Sallie Burleson, age 69 years. Union Chapel Church, Sister Polly Eades, age 42 years, 5 days. Union Hill Church, Bro. W. D. Mitchell, age 33 years. 7 months and 6 days. Freewater Church, Bro. Lafayette Franks, age 25 years. Death is only a gate to real happiness and light to those who have lived in the center of God's will.

Respectfully submitted,

P T KEETON, Chairman.

On motion, the report was adopted and committee discharged.

27. STANDING DELEGATES ON MINISTERIAL CHARACTER

A J Ingle, R E Kennedy, J L Eades, D H Nix, John Keeton, W A Smith, and G W Moore. We, your committee on Ministerial character, beg leave to submit the following report: We find our ministers all in good standing so far as we know; we urge our preachers that have the pastorial care of churches to urge the great Sunday School work in all the churches. We also investigated the report on Rev. W E M Cofield, and find that the report was untrue. Respectfully submitted,

G W MOORE, Chairman.

On motion, the report received and adopted.

On motion that Beulah Church be granted a letter of dismission from this Association for the purpose of uniting with the Morning Star Association, and the Clerk instructed to write them a letter of dismission, the same was done.

On motion by Rev. R S Pennington that Pleasant Hill Church be dropped from the minutes, the same was done.

NAMES OF MINISTERS PRESENT

Reverends John L Conner, W D Martin, E C Thomas, M R Martin, G W Flippo, James J Wesley, P T Keeton, J R Williams, J E Cochran.

LICENTIATE MINISTERS

E R Franks.

On motion, that the association adjourn to meet Saturday morning at 8 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. P C Pike of the Morning Star Association. Benediction by the Moderator.

Friday night at 7 o'clock services were opened with song and prayer; Rev. P T Keeton preached a very interesting sermon to an attentive congregation. Text, Hebrews 2nd chapter and 3rd verse.

SATURDAY MORNING, SEPT. 30, 8 O'CLOCK

The Association met pursuant to adjournment; singing by the congregation, and prayer by Rev. J W Moore. The Moderator called the body to order; a quorum being present, called for unfinished business as follows, viz:

1. Resolved, that Rev. B P Harris be granted license to preach, as he was formerly a minister of the Missionary Baptist, and the Clerk was

instructed to write his credentials.

Resolved second, that we buy a lot in the town of Guin, Ala., for the purpose of erecting a Free-will Baptist Church in said town, and pay \$153 00 the price asked for said lots 26 and 27, making 50 ft. front and 150 ft. back, Collins plat, fronting 11th Avenue west of public well in the town of Guin, Alabama.

MINISTERS' REPORTS.

Since the last session of the Jasper Free-will Association I have preached 114 sermons, traveled 900 miles, pastored two churches, Union Hill and Mt. Pleasant, received into the church at Union Hill 18 by letter and recommendation, 8, by baptism, 10; at Mt. Pleasant 14, by recommendation and letter 7, by baptism 7; at other places 8, by letter and recommendation 3, by baptism 5; total number received 40. I have received for my services, from Union Hill, \$44 00, from Mt. Pleasant \$29.40, other places \$8.30, total \$82.70; number of exhortations 15, sick room visits 20, burial services conducted 1. The Lord has blessed me with good revivals this year. Pray for me that the Lord may continue to help me in this great work, and as it grows greater and more extensive, that I may be better qualified and prepared for the work and that the harvest may be greater. I have visited 11 churches and about 300 houses, and delivered about 200 public prayers this year. Respectfully submitted, REV. W D MARTIN.

Since our last Association I have traveled 355 miles, preached 34 sermons, 51 public prayers, baptised 5, received into the church 2, married 6 couples, visited the sick 11 times, received for my services \$32.25, mar-Respectfully submitted, riage fees \$6.00, total \$38.25.

P T KEETON.

REV. J R FORD.

Since the last Association I have traveled 127 miles, preached 20 sermons, have had the pastored care of two churches, organized I Sabbath School, I received for my services from Mountain Home \$1.00, Poplar Log none, marriage fees \$1.00, contributions \$5.00, grand total \$7.00. Respectfully submitted,

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Rev. R A Nix, Rosco, Texas, Route 3

Rev. John L Conner, Guin, Alabama, Route 3.

Rev. James J Wesley, Guin. Ala.

Rev. G W Flippo, Guin, Alabama, Route 3.

Rev. James E Cochran, Winfield, Alabama, Route 3.

Rev. E C Thomas, Winfield, Alabama, Route 4.

Rev. W B Benson, Carbon Hill, Ala.

Rev. R C Flippo, Guin, Alabama, Route 3.

Rev. W E M Cofield, Bear Creek, Ala.

Rev. A H Lay, Hackleburg, Alabama, Route 2.

Rev. J R Ford, Hackleburg, Alabama, Route 2.

Rev. W D Martin, Guin, Alabama, Route 3.

Rev. M R Martin, Brilliant, Alabama, Route 1.

Rev. P T Keeton. Dennis, Mississippi, Route 1.

LICENTIATES

. Rev. John Tucker, postoffice not given, Rev. E R Franks, Guin, Alabama, Route 3.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

1 RESOLVED, That any Minister of this Association who is found guilty of circulating false reports, by pen or otherwise, on a brother minister which is liable to impair his usefulness and destroy his influence shall be deemed guilty of a disciplinary offence, and after discipline has been used if he does not show signs of penitence and reformation he shall be excommunicated from the Association and published in our denominational literature.

2 It is agreed to retain a financial system, as we see the great need of such, and we recommend that each member of this 'Association, pay, annually, 50 cents in connection with the minute funds, and ask all our ministers to use their best efforts in the collection of these funds; and it is further understood that our Treasurer keep a true record of all funds paid in, and how the same are paid out; such funds to be disposed of through the Moderator and Clerk being authorized by the Association; said funds to be used for no other purpose than the upbuilding of the Jasper Free-Will Baptist Association, i. e., aiding distressed and disabled Ministers and poor widows and orphans.

3 BE IT RESOLVED, That members shall not hold their membership out of the Church over one year after date, and they are under

the Jurisdiction of the Church to which they belong.

4 BE IT RESOLVED, That any Minister of the Jasper Free-Will Baptist Association who desires to set forth the full functions of the Gospel, the same shall be made known to the Annual Association by a recommendation from the Church or Churches to which they belong, and if, on examination, they shall be found worthy, the Association may ordain them, but all ordinations must be done at the Annual Association.

5 On motion, it was agreed that each minister report annually the amount of money he has received, the number of miles travelled, the number of sermons preached, the number of public prayers offered, the number marriage ceremonies performed, the number of visits made to the sick,

and burial services attended during the associational year.

6 The following preamble and resolution was presented, read and adopted: Whereas, the Jasper Association is without proper representation with her sister Associations, and feeling the great need of the cause of Christ, that we elect corresponding delegates; and the following were elected, viz:

Bear Creek Association-Brothers G. W Doss, R S Mullins and Rev. W D Martin.

Little Brown's Creek Association-Rev. P T Keeton and J T Tharp. State Line Association - Brother James Peoples and J T Arthur.

Vernon Association-Revs. J J Wesley, M R Martin, Bro. W A Smith. Morning Star Association-Brothers Robert Franks and J L Eades,

Rev. J L Conner.

- 7 On motion, it was agreee to hold the next session of this Association with Mount Olive Church, Marion County, Alabama, 5 miles east of Guin Station on the Frisco Railroad, the same to convene Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 1917.
- 8 On motion, Rev. E C Thomas was elected to preach the introductory sermon; Rev. J R Williams, alternate.

9 On motion, it was agreed that the articles of faith, constitution and rules of decorum be appended to the minutes.

10 On motion, it was agreed that the Clerk superintend the printing of the minutes and have the work done to the best advantage, and that the Clerk be allowed \$7 50 for his services.

11 On motion, the following resolution was adopted, to-wit:

RESOLVED, That this the Jasper Free-will Baptist Association, at Gum Springs Church, hereby tender our sincerest thanks to the officers aud delegates of this august body, and to the good sisters and community at large our deepest love and respect for their kindness and friendship toward us; we will long remember you all. Respectfully submitted, REV. W D MARTIN.

12 On motion, the Association adjourned to meet at the time and

place above named. Prayer by Rev. J J Wesley.

Saturday, September 30, at 11 o'clock Rev. J W Moore, of the Morning Star Association, preached to a large concourse of people, text, 1st Corinthians, 15th chapter and the 49th verse. After preaching, the Lord's Supper was administered and Christians of the different denominations partook of the emblems; a hymn was sung and the parting hand was taken amid tears and joy. REV. J L CONNER, Moderator. ROBERT FRANKS, Clerk.

RULES OF DECORUM.

Article 1. The Association shall be called to order by the Moderator who presided at the last session; former Clerk also officiating until the body is fully organized.

Art. 2. The Association shall be opened and closed with singing and

Art. 3. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by ballot at each session of the Association. A majority of votes by the delegates present

Art. 4. The names of delegates from the different churches shall be enrolled and called as often as necessary during the session.

Art. 5. A majority of delegates present shall rule in all cases except

the reception of members, then it shall be unanimous.

Art. 6. The Moderator shall not be entitled to vote, except in case of a tie, and then he shall give the deciding vote. He shall also speak on any question after others have spoken, provided he appoint some one to the chair while he is speaking.

Art. 7. Only one person shall speak at same time, and he shall arise and address the Moderator, and after recognition by the Moderator,

proceed.

Art 8. No brother shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject under discussion, or use words of personal reflection.

Art. 9. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the Association, nor more than fifteen minutes at a time.

Art. 10. No person shall laugh or talk during the time the debates are

Art. 11. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the Moderator.

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This Association shall be known as the Jasper Freewill Baptist Association of Alabama, and being composed of ministers and delegates from the different churches forming the same, and each church being entitled to three delegates.

Art. 2. This body shall be considered an advisory council.

Art. 3. All questions of doctrine and matters of general interest shall be decided by a two-thirds vote of the Association, and the decision shall be final.

Art. 4. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, which shall be chosen by a majority vote at each session of the Association.

Art. 5. The Association shall meet annually at such time and place as may be agreed upon by a previous annual session and shall not adjourn finally, until all the business is transacted.

Art. 6. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt its Articles of Faith and conform to its usages.

Art. 7. We agree as churches of this Association to use our best in-

fluence to promote the interest of all moral and benevolent institutions, such as the Temperance Cause, Sunday Schools, Missionary Work, etc.

Art. 8. No member of this Association shall be eligible to the office of Moderator more than two successive sessions, unless no other member be competent to act in that capacity.

Art. 9. Any church of this Association, failing to be represented for two years in succession, the same shall be dropped from our minutes.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

OF GOD-Article 1. We believe there is one, and but on living and true God. Who is in personality, the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost. Equal and harmonious in every Divine perfection.

OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES-Art. 2. We believe that God is the Author of the Holy Bible, and that its teachings constitute the only

infallible doctrine for the government of his church.

OF OKIGINAL APOSTASY-Art. 3 We believe that Adam was created holy; but by voluntary transgression fell into depravity, and consequently involved his posterity in sin.

OF FREE GRACE-Art. 4. We believe that the Grace of God comprehends all spiritual blessings. That the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. That the Holy Spirit not only reproves the world of sin, but is the means whereby sinners are converted, regenerated and saved.

OF CHRISTIAN FAITH- Art. 5. We believe that Christain Faith is belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Redeemer of the world, and we believe in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures. That "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

OF REPENTANCE-Art. 6. We believe that Repentance is sorrow for sin, and the kind of sorrow which constitutes godly repentance must

be preceded by effectual conviction for sin.

OF FREE AGENCY-Art. 7. We believe that the human will is free, and that men have ability to accept or reject the conditions of sal-

vation as they are revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

OF PERSEVERANCE-Art. 8. We do not believe under the Gospel dispensation that any soul is elected to eternal life unconditionally; but those who by faith persevere to the end will be saved. That it is possible for men who have been converted, to "Make shipwreck of the Faith." turn again to sin and be finally lost!

OF GOOD WORK-Art. 9. We believe that good work is the result of Faith, and not of necessity. That those who have Faith will do works of righteouness; while those who have no Faith can not do anything

pleasing or acceptable unto God.

OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM-Art. 10. We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the names of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. That baptism cannot be Scripturalty administered without Faith in the subject who receives it.

OF THE LORD'S SUPPER-Art. 11. We believe the Supper was instituted by our Savior as a commemorative ordinance. That the bread and wine represnt his body and blood. That it was instituted for Christians and that all Christians should unite in observing that sacred service, regardless of names or denominational distinctions.

OF THE SOUL-Art. 12. We believe that man is a living soul. That the body will die, but that the soul is immortal. That death is the

separation of the mortal and immortal parts of human beings.

OF THE RESURRECTION-Art. 13. We believe in the Resurrection of the dead. When the resurrection shall take place the soul and body will reunite and form an immortal being. That the righteous will be received into a state of everlasting happiness, to reign with God forever and ever. But the wicked will be bound hand and foot and be cast into outer darkness. "The wicked are driven away in their wickedness, but the righteous have hope in their death."

STATISTICAL TABLE FOR 1916.

CHURCHES AND COUNTIES	NAMES OF DELEGATES	PASTORS	CLERKS AND POSTOFFICE	Rec'd by Recomendation	Rec'd by Letter	ssed	Died	Day of Meeting.	Number of Members	Minute Fund	Associational funds	Value of Property
Friendship, Marion Co., Ala. Gum Springs, Marion Co., Ala. Union Chapel, Marion Co., Ala. Union Hill, Marion Co., Ala. Freewater, Marion Co., Ala. Liberty, Marion County, Ala. Pleasant Ridge, Itawamba, Miss. Shady Grove, Franklin Co., Ala. Pearces Chapel, Marion Co., Ala. New Hope, Walker Co., Ala. Mountain Home, Marion Co., Ala. Poplar Log, Marion Co., Ala. Bethlehem, Marion Co., Ala.	J W Burleson, John Long, Robert Franks Sam N Elliott, Monro Whitman, R S Butler J T Arthur, James Peoples J F Ashmoore, J W White, J F Ingle H T Warren, W T Estes, J W Westbrook T J Lankston, L D Frederick, J H Frederick W C Pearce, Lawrence Mann, M C Franks W S Taylor J B Keeton, J T Tharp, J H Tharp W J Lacy, D H Nix, Ira Nix G W Burleson W M Fowler, C E Fowler R S Mullins, E H Pickard, H H Brakefield J M Tidwell J L N Moore W D Martin. G M Millwood	E A Palmer_ J R Williams J W Moore_ J L Conner _ G W Flippo _ W D Martin_ P T Keeton_ Z A Frost_ J L Conner _ E C Thomas_ J R Ford G W Flippo	E S Green, Bri liant J L Eads, Glen Allen W H Kennedy, Hackleburg K M Pollard, Guin R 3 W L Akins, Guin R 3 O L Dickinson Dennis, Miss R 1 L A Abston, Philcampbell R 3 W M Fowler, Carbon Hill H H Brakfield, Turnbull	6 - 6 1 2 1 1 1	7 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 -		3	2 1 2 1 2 4 3 - 3	43 1 84 2 122 2 124 1 87 1 68 1 119 2 112 1	1 15 2 00 2 00 1 10 1 90 1 35 2 25 1 60 25 60 25 25	35 70 50	475 00