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MINUTES

OF THE

John Thomas Free Will Baptist
Association

16TH ANNUAL SESSION

HELD AT

Puther Chapel Church

MILLARD, VA.

September 8th to 11th, 1938

PRINTED BY THE
AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLISHING HOUSE
AT THE BAPTIST PRESS, CHICAGO, ILL.

REV. E. A. REEDY, Moderator

E. C. KISER, Clerk

CARL SAULS, Treasurer

Homert E. Willis

PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 11:00 A M

Introductory Sermon: Rev. E. A. Reedy; lesson read: Hebrews 2nd chapter; prayer by Albert Dingus; text in connection with lesson. Service concluded by Rev. W. R. Bise.

Items of Business—2:00 P. M.

E. C. Kiser, Clerk, having charge of same, read lesson, 2nd Chapter Luke. Prayer by Rev. W. E. Rasnake. Clerk now declares conference open for the transaction of such business as may come before it.

The first item of business was the nomination of a Moderator. Rev. W. R. Bise was elected Moderator and assumed the duties of office by taking the chair and proceeding with the election of a clerk and treasurer. E. C. Kiser was re-elected clerk by acclamation. Carl Sauls was re-elected treasurer by acclamation. It was voted by acclamation to give the Moderator power to appoint all committees.

Enrollment Of Delegates Present

L. D. T. Silcox	F. P. Sutherland	Beatrice Kiser
I. S. Gilliam	S. A. Meade	C. H. Meade
Martha Meade	Rosie Meade	Ned Bise
Bessie Rose	N. F. Vanover	Ora Grizzle
George Browning	J. C. Rose	Charlie Clower
Virgie Swindall	Everette Potter	M. A. Bise
Mary A. Rasnake	Alola A. Ball	Stella Deel
J. C. Lambert	Corbette Deel	O. A. Kiser
Phoebe Kiser	Flora Keith	Wanda Hawkins
Leota Reece	Welford Stanley	Medford Lane
Lee Hamby	Sanford Swindall	Gaines Vanover
	Robert Powers	

Enrollment Of Ministers Present

E. A. Reedy	E. M. Rose	J. C. Rasnake
W. E. Rasnake	R. S. Ball	M. P. Ball
H. H. Ball	H. M. Smith	S. P. Davis
W. R. Bise	Mack Gardner	Luther Strouth
C. W. Nokes	L. D. Mahan	D. L. Smith
A. F. Hughes	J. W. Dingus	James King
W. M. Gardner	Albert Dingus	E. C. Kiser
Vernon Kiser	Floyd Hill	George T. Mooney
T. M. Dotson	Earl G. Mullins	B. C. Lane
W. R. Johnson	Dock Kilgore	Monroe Hubbard
	Vester McKinney	

Visiting Ministers

B. R. Powers	J. W. Addington	D. D. Moore
S. M. McFall	W. M. Elkins	W. T. Large

The following appointments were made by the Moderator:

Pulpit Committee

L. D. T. Silcox	I. S. Gilliam	C. H. Meade
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Committee On Next Session

J. C. Rasnake	J. W. Dingus	U. S. G. Meade
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Business Committee

Albert Dingus	E. A. Reedy	S. P. Davis
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Appointed for Admonisher on Sunday School: Rev. J. W. Addington.

Appointed to talk on Temperance, W. E. Rasnake.

This Conference adjourned until Friday, Sept. 9, at 9:00 A. M.

Preaching Thursday at 3:30 P. M. by Rev. Albert Dingus. Lesson, 1st Psalms; text, 1st Verse; prayer by E. A. Reedy. Preaching Thursday, 7:30 P. M. by Rev. W. E. Rasnake and Rev. J. C. Rasnake. Lesson read, 14th Chapter St. John; text, 21st Verse, 18th Chapter 1st Kings. Prayer by Rev. E. A. Reedy.

FRIDAY, SEPT 9—MORNING SESSION

Morning session opened by Moderator; lesson, 24th Psalm. Prayer by A. F. Hughes. Moderator calls for Quarterly Meeting reports.

Dickenson County Quarterly Meeting Reports

To the 16th Annual Session of the John Thomas Free Will Baptist Association, which will convene with Puther Chapel Church from the 8th day to the 11th of Sept. 1938:

We, the Dickenson County Quarterly Meeting, met with the Clinchview Church on Friday before the 4th Sunday in July, 1938, and appointed the following delegates to represent us in this Association.

CLINCHVIEW CHURCH: Mary A. Rasnake, E. R. Rasnake, J. F. Stevens, Jake Wilson, Bertha Rasnake, Bertha Stevens.

CLINCHCO CHURCH: Fletcher Farmer, Mrs. Fletcher Farmer Kelley Sloan, Gladys Holbrook, A. C. Johnson.

PUTHER CHAPEL CHURCH: Corbette Deel, Mrs. Corbette Deel, Charlie Lambert, Mrs. M. A. Bise, Ted Bise, Mrs. E. C. Kiser.

VALLEY VIEW CHURCH: B. M. Lane, Wanda Hawkins, Flora Keith, Leota Reece.

FLEMINGTOWN CHURCH: Carl Mullins,, Henry Wright.

MIDDLE BRANCH CHURCH: Thurman Silcox,, Parmer Sutherland.

HONEY CAMP CHURCH: Clyde Rose, Jas. W. Rose.

PHILADELPHIA CHURCH: N. F. Vanover, Ethel Vanover.

RUGBY CHURCH: Trigg Smith, Georgie Smith.

PINE GROVE CHURCH: Orlena Hamilton, Orbin Kiser, Emmet Hamilton.

RACHEL CHAPEL: Earl F. Dotson, I. S. Gilliam.

LICK FORK CHURCH: George Browning, Welford Stanley.

CHARLIE CHAPEL CHURCH: Medford Lane.

Our standing is as follows, to-wit: 20 churches with a membership of 1000. Value of church property, \$9,500; 25 ordained ministers. Done and signed by order of the Quarterly Meeting.

E. A. REEDY, Moderator

N. H. STANLEY, Clerk.

To the Yearly Meeting with Peuther Chapel Church, Sept. 8-11, 1938, from the Letcher County Quarterly Meeting, Greetings:

We have nine churches with a membership of 550; twenty-five ordained ministers and 10 licentiates; value of church property, \$1,500.

We have chosen to represent us as delegates from each church:

Allegheny, Lawrence Childers and Alva Childers. Dorton, Archie Baldwin, Mandy McPeck and W. M. Elkins; Potter's Fork, Junior Flaunery, Boone Phipps and Willie Pendleton; McRoberts, Hobart Powers, W. M. Gardner and James King; Sergeant, Anna Fields, Betty Fields and Elisha Holbrook; Marshall Branch, Sanford Swindall, Virgie Swindall and Johnnie Stoffer; Dunham, Bernard Caldwell and Alley Irwin; Payne Gap, George Stewart, Everett Potter, Henry Jenkins and Myrtie Stewart; Burdine, W. M. Clark, Lee Hamby, Charlie Clower and Sam Privitt.

Our next quarterly meeting is with Dorton church, beginning Friday before the 4th Sunday in November. Payne Gap requests the next yearly meeting.

MONROE HUBBARD, Moderator

LUTHER STROUTH, Clerk.

By move and second, reports from both quarterly meetings were accepted and passed as good.

The Moderator called for reports from other associations and received verbal reports from Southwest Virginia Association by J.

W. Addington, N. H. Stanley, H. M. Smith, E. J. Kilgore and B. R. Powers. Moved and seconded received reports as good.

Conference adjourned until 2:30 P. M. Preaching at 11 o'clock by R. S. Ball and A. F. Hughes. Lesson 50th Psalm; text, 1st Verse. Prayer by E. J. Kilgore.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Conference opened by Moderator. Lesson read, 21st Chapter Revelations; prayer by Alola A. Ball.

It was moved and seconded by the Conference that E. C. Kiser, Clerk, should have the right in making off the manuscript to correct all mistakes and to arrange all material in the best form possible.

The Moderator appointed delegates as follows, E. A. Reedy, Monroe Hubbard, E. M. Rose, C. C. Lambert and Carl Sauls to meet at the home of E. J. Kilgore on the 4th Sunday in Sept., 1938, at 2:00 P. M., to organize a new association.

Appointment by Ordaining Council

Dickenson County Quarterly Meeting: A. F. Hughes, Chairman, M. P. Ball, W. R. Bise.

Letcher County Quarterly Meeting: Albert Dingus, Chairman, Luther Strouth, C. W. Ison.

Moderator appoints Corresponding Messengers: I. S. Gilliam, William, Corbette Deel and Ted Bise to Sandy Valley Association at Effices Church, Russell County, on Pine Creek near Raven.

N. H. Stanley, Ted Bise, E. M. Rose to Southwest Virginia Association at Hoover's Chapel, Lee County.

A. F. Hughes, N. H. Stanley, J. W. Dingus to Clinch Valley Association.

This Conference adjourned until 9:30 Saturday.

Preaching Friday at 3:30 by B. R. Powers; lesson 11th chapter 1st Corinthians; text "Co-operation"; prayer by E. A. Reedy.

Preaching Friday night 7:30 by Rev. Monroe Hubbard and Rev. D. D. Moore. Lesson read, 10th Chapter St. John; text, Jeremiah, 12th Chapter, 9th Verse. Prayer by Mack Gardner and Mrs. L. Trammel.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 10—MORNING SESSION, 9 O'CLOCK

Conference opened by Moderator. Lesson read, 1st Chapter St. John; prayer by Rv. J. W. Addington.

Ministers Conference

The Letcher County ministers met on Saturday before the 4th

Sunday in Aug., 1938, at 4 o'clock; and organized by electing Rev. Monroe Hubbard, Moderator; Rev. Luther Strouth, Clerk.

Ministers present:

Monroe Hubbard	Albert Dingus	W. M. Elkins
Gifford Ray	L. D. Mahan	J. P. Banks
Riley Caldwell	Sam Webb	W. M. Gardner
Mack Gardner	James King	Clyde Flannery
C. W. Noles	W. K. King	Luther Strouth

Ministers Absent

C. W. Ison	James Wright	Basil Spencer
Leonard Powers	Marion Strunk	Ersel McPeck
Porter Brewer	Dock Kilgore	Ed Oaks
H. H. Blackburn	Richard Lee	Jimmie Collier
Duncan Powers	F. R. Trusley	Robert Spriggs
Charlie Houston	W. M. Blanton	Worley Baldwin
	M. F. Rose	

Ministers' characters passed as good to doctrine and walks.

MONROE HUBBARD, Moderator

LUTHER STROUTH, Clerk.

Dickenson County ministers met on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in July, 1938, at Clinchview Church and organized by electing Rev. E. A. Reedy Moderator, and N. H. Stanley, Clerk.

Ministers Present

E. A. Reedy	J. C. Rasnake	Floyd Hill
E. C. Kiser	Martin Ball	R. S. Ball
H. H. Ball	W. E. Rasnake	

Ministers Absent

W. R. Bise	Henry Smith	Dan Hawkins
E. M. Rose	Dan Smith	Floyd Cantrell
Thurston Meade	W. R. Johnson	W. T. Bise
Casper Lane	George Mooney	Vester McKinney
Troy Robinson	Trigg Dotson	Earl Mullins
Charlie Johnson	Vernon Kiser	A. F. Hughes
S. P. Davis	Emory Vanover	

Characters of ministers passed good as to fellowship and doctrine. There being no further business before this Conference, by move and second this conference stands adjourned until Saturday before the 4th Sunday in July, 1939.

E. A. REEDY, Moderator

N. H. STANLEY, Clerk.

This Conference adjourned until 2:30 P. M. Preaching at 11 o'clock, E. M. Rose, S. M. McFall. Lesson, 1st chapter St. John; text, 4th verse. Lesson read. Prayer by request of Sister Mary Powers in behalf of Sister Alvin Rose.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION—2:30 P.M.

Conference opened by Moderator. Lesson read, 2nd Chapter, 2nd Peter. Prayer by M. P. Ball.

Report of Business Committee

We, the Business Committee, ask that each member of the John Thomas Free-Will Baptist Association donate 50 cents each per year to each church treasurer, to be kept separate and apart from regular treasury funds, and be turned over to yearly treasurer to be used as an emergency fund. By move and second this resolution was passed as good by the body to be given as a free-will offering. Moderator appoints committee to see after this yearly fund, as follows: Charlie Clower, G. B. Lambert, S. L. Dyer, Rush Meade and R. J. Mullins.

With a move and second, it was passed that each Quarterly Meeting send to the yearly meeting \$2.00 per church for yearly meeting funds. The Clerk was given power to draw on this fund to pay for minutes, and the balance of this fund to be used for emergency funds.

Number of minutes to be printed, 1300.

1,000 for Dickenson County Quarterly Meeting

300 for Letcher County Quarterly Meeting.

Report on Sunday Schools

Pearl Bise, general superintendent of Eastern District, reports of Sunday Schools as follows:

Clinchco Sunday School, A. C. Johnson, Supt., average attendance, 150.

Puther Chapel Sunday School, J. C. Rose, Supt., average attendance, 50.

Nora Sunday School, Mrs. Binns, Supt., average attendance, 40.

A. Q. Ramey, general superintendent of Sunday Schools in Western District, failed to report.

We, the Executive Committee, make a suggestion to pay yearly clerk \$10.00 for his services out of Quarterly Funds.

U. S. G. MEADE, Moderator

R. J. Mullins, Carl Sauls,

W. C. Lambert

By a move and second this suggestion was passed as good.

Committee On Next Session

We, the committee, do agree that the John Thomas Free Will Baptist Association will hold its 17th Annual Session at Payne Gap, Ky. Business Committee adjourned until Thursday before 2nd Sunday in September, 1939.

J. C. RASNAKE, Chairman

J. W. Dingus, U. S. G. Meade.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The Ministers' Conference was continued as organized in the morning session. J. C. Rasnake was appointed by the Moderator to serve as evangelist in Dickenson County Quarterly bounds for the ensuing year. No evangelist was appointed for Letcher County.

Ministers' Conference adjourned until Saturday before the second Sunday in September, 1939.

Preaching Saturday at 3:30 by B. C. Lane. Lesson read, 13th Chapter St. John. Text, The Seed Sower. Prayer by Earl Mullins. Preaching Sunday at 11 o'clock by E. A. Reedy and Albert Dingus. Lesson read, 1st Chapter Hebrews. Text, lesson read.

Prayer by W. W. Hillman.

Rev. W. R. Blise, Moderator

E. C. Kiser, Clerk.

MINISTERS' REPORTS

WEBB SAM—Preached 200 sermons, witnessed 25 conversions, baptised 12, held 12 prayer services, married one couple, attended one memorial, organized one church, received in the church 20 members, donated \$10.00, received nothing. Miles traveled, 800, churches pastored 2. Member of Sergeant church.

J. W. DINGUS, Jenkins, Ky.—I have preached 20 sermons, about 25 prayer services in homes, witnessed 58 conversions, baptised 1, traveled about 480 miles. Brethren, pray for me that I stay down at the foot of the Cross and endure hardness as a good soldier.

H. H. BALL, Davenport, Va.—Preached 31 sermons, witnessed several conversions, helped in 2 revivals, helped baptise 14, traveled about 800 miles, spent \$13 traveling expenses, received nothing.

B. C. LANE—Churches pastored, 2; sermons preached, 175; worked in 5 revivals, witnessed 150 conversions, attended 50 burials, held 10 memorials, held 75 prayer services in homes, organized one church, organized 2 Sunday Schools, baptised 175, donated \$20.00, received from Free Will Baptist churches, \$10.00. Total amount received, \$10.00.

GILFORD RAY, Dorton, Ky.—Preached 5 sermons, witnessed 6 conversions, held 12 prayer services in homes, traveled 49 miles.

L. P. POWERS, McRoberts, Ky.—Preached 52 sermons, worked in 2 revivals, witnessed 41 conversions, held several prayer services in homes, added 16 members to church, baptised 9, traveled 350 miles.

D. A. POWERS, Payne Gap, Ky.—Preached 27 sermons, held one revival, witnessed 18 conversions, attended 4 burials, held 2 memorials, held 17 prayer services in homes, assisted in organizing one church, added 3 members to church.

L. D. MAHAN, Jenkins, Ky.—Pastored one church, worked in 2 revivals, witnessed 24 conversions, held 14 prayer services in homes, added 16 members to church, organized one Sunday School, preached 86 sermons, traveled 900 miles.

MONROE HUBBARD—Pastored one church, preached about 65 sermons, held one revival, witnessed 45 conversions, attended 6 burials, held 4 memorials, added 35 members to church, married 15 couples, traveled 2000 miles.

R. S. BALL, Davenport, Va.—I am near seventy years old and broke down, and retired from church work. I have preached about 20 sermons, attended 3 burials services and 2 memorials, went to 2 quarterly meetings, traveled about 300 miles, traveling expenses about \$3.00, and received in little gifts about \$2.00. You all pray God that He may straighten me that I may be able to do more. Your brother in Christ, **R. S. BALL**.

M. P. BALL, Davenport, Va.—Pastored one church, preached 54 sermons, helped in 2 revivals, witnessed several conversions, attended 6 burial services, helped to baptise 13, and added 29 members to the church, traveled about 800 miles, spent \$13.00, received nothing. Your brother in Christ, **M. P. Ball**.

ALBERT DINGUS, Burdine, Ky.—Pastored 3 churches; sermons preached about 75, baptised 20, received 15 into fellowship of the church, attended 14 burial services, attended 4 memorial services, witnessed about 50 conversions.

D. L. SMITH, Rt. 2, Box 69, Coeburn, Va.—Have helped in 3 revivals, preached 61 sermons, attended 12 burials, held 4 memorials and prayer services, witnessed 36 conversions, added 30 members to the church, baptised 34, married 3 couples, received no donations. Brethren, pray for me that I may do more of the good work.

KING, W. K., McRoberts, Ky.—Dear Brethren: I will not get to attend the meeting this year, but I will send you all my love and

best wishes. Brothers, pray for me as a laborer in the Vineyard of the Lord, that I may do a greater work for God in the next year than I have in the past.

RASNAKE, W. E., Council, Va.—I have preached 54 sermons, helped in 2 revivals, witnessed several conversions, attended 5 burials, helped to baptise 14, have traveled near 400 miles, receiving nothing from the churches.

STROUTH, LUTHER—Pastored 1 church, preached 82 sermons, witnessed 7 conversions, attended 4 burials, traveled 300 miles. Brethren, pray for me that I may ever continue faithful. Read Ezekial, 18th chapter, 24th verse.

SPRIGGS, HOBART—Sermons preached, 55; conversions witnessed, 1; burials attended, 7; prayer services in homes, 46, members added to church, 2. I desire the prayers of all Christians that I may be found in the Lord at death.

SMITH, HENRY, Rt. 2, Box 55, Coeburn, Va.—Churches pastored, 4; sermons preached, 193, revivals held, 8; conversions witnessed, 65, burials, 15, memorials 8, baptised 53, received into the church, 60, donations received, \$75.00.

GARDNER, MACK—I have preached 20 sermons, attended several prayer meetings, witnessed 68 conversions, helped in 2 revivals, baptised 5, married 5 couples, traveled 50 miles, and have given to church and Sunday School. I am 75 years old and have only received about \$9.00 from donations. Pray for me that I may do more for the Lord, for He has done so much for me. A member of the Free-Will Baptist Church, McRoberts, Ky.

RASNAKE, J. C., Council, Va.—I have pastored one church, preached 154 sermons, held 6 revivals, witnessed 69 conversions, received 22 members into the church, baptised 30, preached 12 funerals, helped in 6 memorials, traveled 1370 miles, paid for traveling expenses, \$14.20; received as donations, \$144.65. Pray for me that I may be more successful in the work than I have ever been before.

DOTSON, T. M.—I have preached 100 sermons, helped in 6 revivals, witnessed 73 conversions, baptized 13 candidates, pastored 2 churches, conducted 2 burial services, helped in 10 memorials, married 2 couples.

KISER, VERNON—Churches pastored, 1; assisted in 3 conversions, witnessed 45, baptised and assisted in 22, assisted in 8 memorials, held 4 funeral services, held 35 prayer services in homes.

Donations from Rugby church, \$15.00; from Pine Grove church, \$11.20.

C. W. ISON, Burdine, Ky.—Preached 112 sermons, preached in 7 memorials, witnessed 30 conversions, received into fellowship of the church, 26, helped in 2 revivals, attended 3 burials services, baptised 5, married 3 couples, moderator of 2 quarterly meetings, laid hand on 3 ministers, pastored 4 churches, traveled 1,020 miles, preached 7 funerals.

GARDNER, W. M., Neon, Ky.—I have preached 126 sermons, witnessed 88 conversions, held 22 prayer meetings in homes, helped and held 3 revivals, conducted 9 burial services, organized one Sunday School, baptised 14 candidates, married 6 couples. Have received no donations and have given to church and Sunday School. Pray for me as an evangelist. Traveled 300 miles.

Left From Last Year

DOCK KILGORE, Haysi, Va.—Pastored 1 church, preached 75 sermons, witnessed 10 conversions, attended 5 burials, held 10 memorials, added 2 members to church, married 2 couples, traveled 500 miles.

E. A. REEDY—Pastored 3 churches preached 120 sermons, witnessed 30 conversions, attended 13 burials, held 10 memorials, added 16 members to church, married 2 couples, traveled 800 miles. Received from Free Will Baptist church members as donation, \$2.

MONROE HUBBARD, Jenkins, Ky.—Have traveled 3334 miles, and by the help of the Lord I have preached 84 sermons, preached 13 funerals, 10 memorial services, baptised 7, married 11 couples, paid out for travel, \$176.70.

OBITUARIES

SHIRLEY RUTH BENTLEY

Shirley Ruth Bentley was born April 14, 1937, died Aug. 6, 1938, at the age of 1 year, 3 months and 23 days, leaving a father and mother and two sisters to mourn her loss. Our loss is heaven's gain. She is gone but not forgotten. The Lord gives and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord. She was the daughter of Bro. James Bentley.—Written by Bro. Bill Gardner.

J. D. BREWER

Our dearly beloved brother, J. D. Brewer, was born Nov. 14, 1865, and died Feb. 14, 1938, making him 73 year, 3 months and 2 days old. He leaves two sons and daughters and many friends to mourn his absence. We sorrow much that he is gone from our midst, but our loss is heaven's gain. May God help his children to

look back at their father's life that it may be a light to guide them across the River of Death where the circle will not be broken, for his last words were, "I am going home."

Written by Bill Gardner, Neon, Ky.

BALLARD MASSEY

Ballard Massey was born Nov. 21, 1919. He was taken sick on March 12, 1938, and passed from this life April 9, 1938. He leaves a loving father and mother, two sisters and 4 brothers to mourn his loss. But their loss is heaven's gain. He has gone where sickness and sorrow never comes. He confessed his Savior to Brother Strouth and shouted His praises, and declared that Jesus had saved him, and that he was not ashamed of his Savior. While his father was praying by his bedside while he thought death approaching, with his pale, white hand on his breast, he spoke and said "Look up yonder, papa, I see the queen."

Written by R. E. Perry.

MINNIE STROUTH

It was requested of me by her husband, Bro. Luther Strouth, that I write this obituary of Sister Minnie. She was thirty-two years old when she departed this life June 24, 1938. She is survived by her devoted husband, little daughter and a host of relatives and friends.

Sister Minnie has been in my home so many times, and a day or two before she died she came to my house and from what she told me I don't think her parting this life should be grievous. Although we know she is missed by so many I believe she wanted to go. She told me she didn't get mad at what people said about her any more. She could laugh about it. She told me she wished she could die and get out of her troubles, it wasn't for leaving her little daughter. Her deceased mother came to her in a dream a few months before she died, put her arms around her neck and told her she would be back after her soon.

If mother was the death angel that carried her across

That cold, icy river of death, to meet with her Savior,

How happy they'll be, those three,

In the land of the blest!

Written by Octavia H. Fleming.

MRS. MOLLIE V. GARDNER

Mrs. Mollie V. Gardner, the beloved wife of Brother Bill Gardner, was born Sept. 4, 1892, in Lee County, Va., and died Dec. 26, 1937, in Louisville, Ky. She was the mother of ten children, three dead and seven living. Her children, husband and many friends

mourn her loss. Her last words were to not worry about her, just to pray a while longer. May her prayers and life be a light to her friends and children. Her time on earth was forty-five years, three months and twenty-two days. She was a wonderful mother and wife.

Written by Bro. W. M. Gardner, McRoberts, Ky.

THE ORGANIZATION OF A CHURCH

1. When any number of believers desire to be organized into a Free Will Baptist church, they are examined by one or more regular Free Will Baptist ministers in reference to their Christian character, doctrine and ability to sustain a church. If the examination is satisfactory the applicants are organized into the church as follows: The Bible is presented as the only rule of faith and practice. The Church Covenant shall be adopted. A prayer of consecration is offered. The hand of fellowship is given. Then officers are elected.

2. There shall be male members enough to fill the public offices in the church, in order that a regular discipline may be kept up.

3. After being thus constituted they shall be at liberty, out of the number of regularly ordained ministers, to choose a pastor who shall preside over them.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been brought, as we believe, by the divine grace to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Preserver, we do now solemnly and joyfully covenant and agree, by God's help, to walk together in brotherly love.

We, therefore, enter into covenant as members of this church and as Christians; that we will watch over each other in love, sharing together each other's joys and sorrows; that we will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor omit the great duty of prayer for ourselves and others; that by divine assistance we will endeavor to bring up those under our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; that in all things we will strive to exemplify our profession by a corresponding practice, to abstain from all sinful conformity to the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in all our deportment; that we will abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage; that we will sustain the worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine of the church; that we will contribute cheerfully, according to our ability, to the support of the ministry, the expenses

of the church, the relief of the poor and the general spread of the Gospel.

In keeping this solemn Covenant, may we ever enjoy the blessings and presence of the Great Head of the Church.

MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH

Each church meets as often as practicable for the public worship of God.

The times of celebrating the Lord's Supper, washing feet, and of business meetings are arranged by each local church to suit its own convenience.

Each church is required to observe the ordinances. Foot washing follows the Lord's Supper.

Conference or business meetings are opened and closed with suitable devotional exercises. The pastor acts as moderator of the business meetings of the church. In the absence of the pastor the church may meet when necessary and attend to ordinary business, but no member is excluded in the absence of the pastor.

OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

The officers of a church are a Board of Trustees, Clerk, Treasurer, Deacons and Deaconesses, Finance Committee and Pastor.

Board of Trustees—The duty of the trustees shall be to hold title to all property, either in fee or gift, and to maintain all rights to same, to convey said property in the discretion of four-fifths majority of those present at a regular quarterly meeting, being announced at said church three months prior to said meeting.

Clerk—It is the duty of the clerk to keep a church book and in it record the Church Covenant, the names of the members, and all the proceedings of the church, in the exercise of its discipline and management of its temporal affairs. He also signs all the letters and other communications made by authority of the church.

Treasurer—The treasurer shall be entrusted with the funds of the church, and it shall be his duty to keep a regular account of all the money received, and from whom, and make a report of the same annually to the church, or oftener if necessary, which funds shall be drawn on the treasurer only by the order of the church.

Deacons—The deacons are elected for life or during good behavior. They should be men distinguished among their brethren for piety and benevolence. Before entering upon the duties of their office they are ordered by the pastor or other regular minister, or deacon consisting of charge, laying on of hands and prayer. It is

of the church among its needy members, to visit the sick, to assist the pastor in promoting order in attendance upon the church, and to conduct religious meetings in the absence of the pastor.

Deaconesses—They assist the deacons and the Finance Committee in visiting the sick, in collecting funds and distributing among the needy members, and enforcing proper discipline among female members.

Finance Committee—These have the general management of the finances of the church, subject to the church's control.

Pastor—Each church elects its own pastor out of the regularly ordained ministers, upon such terms as may be agreed upon between the parties themselves. It is the pastor's duty faithfully to preach the Word, to have the general superintendence of the church; to be himself an example to the flock; to visit the members, especially the sick, as he has the opportunity, and to do all within his power to promote the religious interest of the church which he serves, and to advance the cause of Christ among men.

RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

Any person who gives evidence of a change of heart, professes faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and has been immersed by a proper administrator, church covenant read, explained and accepted, is received to membership by a vote of the church.

From other churches immersed persons are received by letter. No one against whom any valid objection is made is received to membership. When any member objects to the reception of an applicant, the matter is deferred until the church can ascertain the nature of the objection. If, in the opinion of the church, the objection is not a valid one, the applicant may be received. Excluded members are received again only when they confess their errors and give evidence of repentance. Persons excluded from other churches are not received, unless it be made evident that they were excluded upon unjustifiable grounds. The hand of fellowship is extended to all who are received into the membership of the church.

DISMISSION OF MEMBERS

Only members in good standing are dismissed from the church, and these for no other reason than to unite with some other church. Such members receive letters of honorable dismission and commendation, but are under the watch-care of the same church until they are received into some other. A withdrawal without such letter of commendation is equivalent to excommunication, and treated as such by the church.

ORGANIZATION OF A QUARTERLY MEETING

Two or more churches wishing to organize a Quarterly Meeting, shall appoint three delegates for that purpose and request of an adjoining Quarterly Meeting a council of not less than five members and one ordained minister which will meet with the delegates and proceed.

1. To examine the delegates respecting the Christian character and doctrines of their respective churches, and the reason for such an organization as desired.

2. The right hand of fellowship and consecrating prayer.

3. The election of a moderator, clerk and treasurer, and then proceed with such business as may come before it.

4. Delegates are elected to some yearly meeting or Association of the Free Will Baptists, and instructed for membership in such body.

YEARLY MEETING CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

We, the members of the Free Will Baptist Church, in order to form a more perfect union and promote Christ's kingdom, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the John Thomas Yearly Meeting.

Article 1. This yearly meeting shall be called the John Thomas Yearly Meeting, and shall be composed of such regularly organized and well disciplined Free Will Baptist quarterly meetings, conveniently located, as may embody themselves under this Constitution.

Art. 2. The Conference of this yearly meeting shall be composed of ministers and delegates who are members of the quarterly meetings, each quarterly meeting being entitled to three delegates from each church.

Art. 3. The officers of this yearly meeting shall be a clerk, treasurer, and moderator, and shall be chosen at every session of the yearly meeting, with such assistant as may be found necessary.

Art. 4. Any well organized and well regulated Free Will Baptist quarterly meeting, composed of such churches as conform to the usages and adopt the doctrines of the Free Will Baptist denominations, as published in the minutes of the John Thomas yearly meeting, and are in favor of the benevolent enterprises of the denomination, may at any time, on application, by vote of this yearly meeting, become a member thereof.

Art. 5. This yearly meeting shall have power to discipline the quarterly meetings of which it is composed, and to exclude them for disorderly work if their labor proves unsuccessful.

Art. 6. The session of this yearly meeting shall convene on

Thursday before the 2nd Sunday in September, at which time it shall be the duty of the quarterly meetings of which the yearly meeting is composed to represent themselves by delegates, and report their standing, prospects and statistics by letter, at which time the yearly meeting shall act on such questions and topics as may be referred to it by its respective quarterly meetings, and transact such other business not repugnant to this Constitution, nor the usages of the denomination, as in its judgment may promote the cause of Christ and the interest of the churches and quarterly meetings within the limits of the yearly meeting.

Art. 7. This yearly meeting shall have power to adopt any regulation or by-laws, not inconsistent with the Constitution, which may be deemed essential to the further regulation of its sessions.

Art. 8. This Conference shall not recognize any minister or delegate unless they comply with the constitution and by-laws thereof.

Art. 9. Each quarterly meeting shall send into the yearly meeting treasurer its pro rata part of funds, that are necessary to take care of the expenses of the yearly meeting.

Art. 10. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of four-fifths of the ministers and delegates present at any session, notice of such intended alteration having been given and recorded at the next previous session.

BY-LAWS

1. No conference shall be held with less than three ordained ministers and four delegates belonging to this yearly meeting.

2. At the opening of each conference, the clerk's books shall be presented and the proceedings of last conference read.

3. This conference may at each regular meeting elect as many boards or standing committees as may be necessary in carrying out its benevolent purposes. These shall keep a record of their proceedings and make report at each quarterly meeting of the conference.

4. The conference may extend to visiting brethren all the privileges of the body, save that of voting.

5. If any member, in the judgment of the conference, shall show anger in his discussion on any subject, he shall forfeit his seat in that conference.

6. No member of the general conference shall be at liberty to withdraw without leave of the moderator.

7. The conference shall always adjourn by vote.

8. There shall annually be a committee of finance chosen to settle with the treasurer and report to conference.

9. Conference shall always open and adjourn by prayer and

praise of God.

10. A motion must be made by one member, seconded by another and afterwards stated by the moderator, before it is debated. A motion shall be reduced to writing by the mover at the demand of any one member.

11. All resolutions shall be submitted in writing.

12. A motion or resolution may be withdrawn at any time before a decision or amendment by the conference.

13. Any motion or resolution containing more than one distinct proposition shall be divided, provided the call for a division be sustained by the majority.

14. When a member speaks or offers a motion he should rise and respectfully address the moderator, confine himself to the question under consideration, avoid all personalities or unkind or disrespectful language.

15. When two or more members rise to speak at the same time the moderator shall decide who is entitled to the floor.

16. While a member is speaking no one shall interrupt him except to call him to order, ask leave to explain or to make explanation. The one allowed to explain shall confine himself strictly to an actual misunderstanding of language which may need explanation.

17. No member shall speak more than twice, or longer than five minutes at each time on any question without leave of the moderator, which leave shall be granted without debate.

18. All committees may be named by the moderator, by request of the conference.

19. The members first named on a committee shall be its chairman to call the committee together, but after it is convened the committee may elect its own chairman and secretary.

20. Voting shall be done by standing up when a vote is close, or when it becomes necessary to count the affirmative and negative and in special cases by ballot.

21. The moderator, in case of a tie, may cast the deciding vote.

22. All members should vote on one side or the other, unless excused by the moderator.

23. No motion, discussion or other business shall be admitted while the vote is being taken.

24. The minutes of the conference shall be signed by the moderator and the clerk.

25. Each Quarterly Meeting shall ask its respective churches to deal with its members when necessary, according to Matthew 18:15, 17.

26. After members accept the Bible as their rule of faith and practice, then the right hand of fellowship shall be given, which is the door into the church.

27. If the minority of a Quarterly Meeting be grieved over the ruling of the majority, they have the right to appeal to the Yearly Meeting, and its decision shall be final.

28. No minister shall have a vote in the conference unless he is a member in good standing with his church and conference.

E.A.Reedy S.M.McFall D.E.Smith

Arthur Casteel J.C.Rasnake W.R.Stallard

BY-LAWS OF MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

There shall be a Ministers' Conference held annually in connection with the Yearly Meeting.

2. The object of the ministerial conference is to discuss points of doctrine and examine the Christian character of the ministers.

3. All ministers in the John Thomas Yearly Meeting are required to attach themselves to the Ministers' Conference and must be governed by the rules and regulations of the Ministers' Conference.

4. All ministers belonging to the Conference are required to report themselves to the Conference annually, either in person or by letter, or both.

5. All ministers failing to report for two years in succession without a reasonable excuse shall be reprimanded, and if they still disregard this requirement, they may be dismissed from the Conference.

6. All ministers moving to another Yearly Meeting shall take a letter of dismission and commendation so that they may properly unite themselves to the Yearly Meeting where they move.

THE MINISTRY

1. No member of our connection shall be at liberty to take upon himself the public ministry of the word, unless he feels divinely called, and make report of the same to the church to which he belongs, and if the church shall be satisfied with his qualifications, and call of such person, then she may grant said person the liberty to exercise his or her gifts by exhortation, for twelve months.

2. If they prove satisfactory to the church, they shall be recommended to the Quarterly Meeting, if satisfactory to same, may license said applicants or recommend them to the Ordaining Council, and shall be ordained if proven satisfactory to the Council.

3. The Ordaining Council must be appointed by the Yearly Meeting. Three ordained ministers from each Quarterly Meeting shall

serve for a period of twelve months. Any three may transact the business of examining the applicants for ordination.

4. When a minister of another denomination wishes to unite with the Free Will Baptist Church, he or she must first join this church. Then the proceedings are the same as with licentates.

5. Any ministers leaving the Free Will Baptist Church and desiring to be reinstated, shall be dealt with as though they had never belonged to the church.

6. If a minister becomes disorderly, or preaches a doctrine contrary to the Free Will Baptist faith, the minister may at once be called to question by the church offended. They must be given a fair and impartial trial, by evidence mainly by the Free Will Baptist members; if the charges shall be sustained, they shall be dealt with as follows:

The churches have the exclusive right to deal with the ministers under their care.

If the charges are against a licentiate, it must be reported to the Quarterly Meeting, and their decision shall be final.

If the charges are against an ordained minister, then the Quarterly Meeting shall report to, or call the ordaining council together, and they shall try the case, and their decision shall be final.

7. Any ordained minister of the Free Will Baptists may serve the church in the absence of the pastor, in every Gospel order required of him by the church.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

We believe that there is but one living, true and eternal God the Father, of whom are all things from everlasting to everlasting, glorious and immutable in all His attributes.—1 Cor. 8:6; Isa. 40:28.

2. We believe that there is but one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, whom God freely sent into this world because of the great love wherewith He loved the world; and Christ as freely gave Himself a ransom for all, tasting death for every man; who was buried and rose again the third day, and ascended into heaven, from whence we look for Him the second time in the clouds of heaven at the last day to judge both the quick and dead.—1 Tim. 2:5,6; Heb.2:9; St. John 3:16; Rev. 1:7; Acts 24:15; 1 John 2:2.

3. We believe that there is one Holy Ghost, the precious gift of the Father, through his dear Son, unto the world, who quickeneth and draweth sinners home to God.—St. John 16:7; 8; Acts 2:b;

Eph. 2:1; Eph. 4:4-6.

4. We believe in the beginning God made man upright, and placed him in a state of glory without the least mixture of misery, from which he voluntarily, by transgression, fell, and by means brought on himself, a miserable and mortal state subject to death.—Gen. 2:17; 3:19.

5. We believe that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance and the knowledge of truth, that they might be saved; for which end Christ hath commanded the Gospel to be preached among all nations and to every creature.—Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 3:15-17; I Tim. 2:4.

6. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for want of a Christ who died for him, but as the Scripture has said for denying the Lord that bought them; because they believed not in the name of the only begotten Son of God, Unbelief, therefore, being the cause why the just and righteous God of heaven will condemn the children of men, it follows against all argument that all men, at one time or other, are found in such capacity as that through the grace of God they may be eternally saved.—Acts 17:30; Mark 6:6; Heb. 3:10; I John 5:1, 10.

7. We believe that all people reaching the years of accountability must be born again. Then by trusting His promises and keeping His commandments until the end of life, we shall be saved. II Tim. 4-7

8. We believe the whole Scriptures are infallably true and that they are the only rules of faith and practice.—II Tim. 3:16, 17.

9. We believe in the doctrine of General Provision made of God in Christ, for the benefit of all mankind, who repent and believe the Gospel.—Luke 14:16-20; Matt. 28:19, 20; Luke 13:3-5; Acts 3:19; Mark 1:15.

10. We believe that sinners are drawn to God the Father by the Holy Ghost, through Christ His Son, and that the Holy Ghost offers His divine aid to all the human family; so as they all might be happy, would they give place to His divine teachings; whereas, such who do not receive the divine impressions of His Holy Spirit, shall, at a future day, own their condemnation just and charge themselves with their own damnation, for wilfully rejecting the offers of sovereign grace.—Matt. 11:27; St. John 6:45, 65; Ps. 1:1; Tit. 2:11, 12; Jer. 22:29.

11. We believe that men, not considered simply as men, but ungodly men, were of old ordained to condemnation, considered such who turn the grace of God into lasciviousness, denying the only

Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ who bought them, and therefore, shall bring upon themselves swift destruction; but we observe that they, and such the Apostle saith, because they receive not the love of the truth, that they might be saved, therefore, the indignation and wrath of God is upon every soul of man that doeth evil, living and dying therein; for there is no respect of persons with God.—Jude 1:14; II Peter 2:1; II Thess. 2:11; Rom. 2:19-11.

12. We believe that all children dying in infancy, having not actually transgressed against the law of God, in their own persons, are only subject to the first death, which was brought on them by the fall of the first Adam, and that none of them dying in that state shall suffer punishment in hell by the guilt of Adam's sin, for "of such is the kingdom of God.—I Cor. 15:22; Matt. 18:2-5, Mark 9:36, 37; Matt. 19-14.

13. We believe that good works are the fruits of saving faith, and that in the use of the means of grace, and not out of the use of those means, eternal life is promised to men.—Rev. 22:14, 15; Isa. 1:19, 20; Matt. 7:8; Jer. 6:16; Luke 13:34-35.

14. We believe that no man has any warrant in the Holy Scriptures for justification before God through his own works, power or ability, which he has in and of himself, only as he by grace is made able to come to God through Jesus Christ; believing the righteousness of Jesus Christ to be imputed to all believers for their eternal acceptance with God.—Rom. 4:24; Acts 8:20, 21.

15. We believe that all things are foreseen in the wisdom of God, so that God knoweth whatsoever can or cannot come to pass upon all supposed conditions; yet not as having decreed any person to everlasting life, out of respect or mere choice further than He hath appointed the godly unto life, and the ungodly, who die in sin, unto death.—Heb. 4:13; Prov. 8:22-31; Matt. 25:31-46.

16. We believe, as touching Gospel ordinances, in believers' baptism, laying on of hands, receiving of the sacrament in bread and wine, washing the saints' feet, anointing the sick with oil and public ministry of the Word, with every institution of the Lord shall find in the New Testament.—Mark 16:15-16; Acts 19:6; Luke 22:19, 20; John 13: 5-7; Jas. 5:14.

17. We believe the Gospel mode of baptism, is by immersion, that believers are the only subjects for baptism.—Mark 1:9, 10; Acts 2:38, 39; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12.

18. We believe in a general resurrection of the dead, and judgment at the last day.—John 5:28, 29; II Cor. 5:10.

19. We believe the happiness of the righteous is endless, and the torments of the wicked are endless.—Matt. 25:46.

