

Minutes

of the

JOHN THOMAS
ASSOCIATION

of

Freewill Baptists

STATE OF VIRGINIA

THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Held With

Burdine Church

BURDINE, KY.

September 10-13, 1953

TREASURER'S REPORT OF THE YEARS 1952-1953

FINANCIAL REPORT OF JOHN THOMAS ASSOCIATION

Balance in Treasury to date 9-18-52	\$399.47
King Printing Co. Minutes	241.86
In Treasury 9-10-53	167.61

Received into Treasury:

New Durm Conference, Cleve Dye, Cash	40.00
Letcher County Conference, L. D. Mahan	90.00
Tri-State Conference, Cash	30.00
Dickenson County Conference	

Added to Treasury 9-12-53	\$160.00
Balance in Treasury	167.61
Balance in Treasury	\$327.61

Expenditures:

Everett Johnson, Clerk	20.00
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Balance in Treasury to date 9-13-53	\$307.61
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THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

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Officers

Officers of the John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptists that were elected for the year 1953-1954:

C. W. ISOM, Burdine, Kentucky.....*Moderator*
L. D. MAHAN, Payne Gap, Ky.....*Assistant Moderator*
EVERETT JOHNSON, Clinchco, Va.....*Clerk*
W. J. YATES, Omaha, Va.....*Treasurer*

Ordaining Councils

LETCHER COUNTY CONFERENCE

ALBERT DINGUS, *Chairman*.....Jenkins, Ky.
C. W. ISOM.....Burdine, Ky.
L. D. MAHAN.....Payne Gap, Ky.

NEW DURM CONFERENCE

J. C. RASNAKE, *Chairman*.....Cleveland, Va.
W. E. RASNAKE.....Council, Va.
HARLEY DYE.....Swords Creek, Va.

DICKENSON COUNTY CONFERENCE

E. C. KISER, *Chairman*.....Stratton, Va.
C. E. REEDY.....Millard, Va.
ALVIE DINGUS.....McClure, Va.

TRI-STATE CONFERENCE

CLAUDE CONN, *Chairman*.....Paw Paw, Ky.
FRIEL WAGNER.....Paw Paw, Ky.
ALFRED FANNING.....Paw Paw, Ky.

VISITING MINISTERS

ELD. HARRISON COLLIER.....Neon, Ky.
REV. C. W. NOLES, Southwest Va. Assoc.....Pound, Va.
REV. B. R. POWERS, Southwest Va. Assoc.....Wise, Va.
REV. CARL SENTERS, Ky. State Assoc.....Betsy Lane, Ky.

CORRESPONDING MESSENGER

REV. CARL SENTERS, Ky. State Assoc. (Oral Report)

Proceedings

The thirty-first Annual Session of the John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptists convened with the Burdine Church, Burdine, Ky., September 10-14, 1953.

Introductory message was given by the pastor of Burdine Church.

Brother Albert Dingus opened service by reading the fifteenth chapter of St. John. Prayer by Brother Eugene Adkins. Brother Dingus used for his text the eighth verse of chapter read. Brother C. W. Isom concluded the service.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION 2:00 P.M.

Conference was called at 2:00 p.m. and opened with singing. Clerk reading for lesson thirteenth chapter of 1st Corinthians. Prayer by Brother C. W. Isom.

The clerk proceeded by enrolling delegates, ministers, visiting ministers and corresponding messengers from the various conferences and associations.

DELEGATES FROM NEW DURM CONFERENCE

Walter Whited	Cleve Dye	Mrs. Cleve Dye
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DELEGATES FROM LETCHER COUNTY CONFERENCE

J. E. Hood	Luther Dingus	Edna Bates
Lona McPeaks	Lillie Dingus	A. L. Miller
Cora Able	Nancy Sanders	O. T. Miller
Ethel Mullins	L. D. Puckett	Brasha Puckett
Linda Caldwell	Bill Anderson	Brasha Lester

DELEGATES FROM DICKENSON COUNTY CONFERENCE

Lura Vanover	Mrs. Ben Kennedy	John Meade
Virgie Mullins	Agnus Vanover	Ritter Lambert
Alva Lee Fleming	Lillian Fleming	Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hill
Munsey Mullins	Don Murphy	Warren Salyers
Willie Newberry	Vadney Newberry	G. B. Lambert
Francis Lambert	H. B. Powers	Brack Powers
J. D. Browning	Dewey Salyers	Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Gouge

DELEGATES FROM TRI-STATE CONFERENCE

Roscoe Estep	Edward May	Joe Ramey
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MINSTERS FROM NEW DURM CONFERENCE

Harley Dye	J. C. Rasnake
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MINISTERS FROM LETCHER COUNTY CONFERENCE

L. D. Mahan	Albert Dingus	W. A. Looney
C. W. Isom	Lester Able	Essel McPeaks
Ezra Johnson	Eugene Adkins	Licen. Donald Sexton
Charlie Caudill		

MINISTERS FROM DICKENSON COUNTY CONFERENCE

Alva Dingus	E. M. Rose
Walter Hughes	Emory Vanover

MINISTERS FROM TRI-STATE CONFERENCE

Claude Conn

The clerk proceeded by electing a moderator. By move and second Brother C. W. Isom was elected Moderator.

The Moderator taking charge of work, asked for an assistant. The association gave the Moderator power to appoint all committees and also an assistant Moderator. He appointed Brother L. D. Mahan.

He then proceeded by electing a clerk and treasurer, by move and second. The Association voted to retain Everett Johnson as clerk and W. J. Yates as treasurer. Minutes were read and passed.

Next item was appointing a committee of three to supply the pulpit during the Association.

PULPIT COMMITTEE

Lura Vanover, Chairman	Clyde Kelly	Cora Able
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The association being organized it adjourned till 9:30 a.m. Friday morning.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON PREACHING SERVICE 2:00 P.M.

Committee appointed Brothers Donald Sexton and Alva Dingus for this hour. Prayer by Sister Sexton. Text used was "He that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved."

THURSDAY NIGHT PREACHING SERVICE 7:30 P.M.

The Committee appointed Brothers L. D. Mahan and C. W. Isom for this hour. Service opened by singing "Just Over In The Glory Land." Prayer by Brother James Ball. Brother Mahan read for the lesson the first four verses of the 8th chapter of St. Matthew. The text was "Many are called but few are chosen."

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION 9:30 A.M.

Conference opened with the congregation singing "Are You Washed In the Blood of the Lamb." Moderator read for the lesson the 15th Psalm. Prayer by Sister Cora Able.

After enrollment, the moderator continued with business by calling for letters from different conferences. Letcher County responded with letter as follows:

To The John Thomas Association when convened with the Burdine Church from September 10th to 13th, 1953.

The Letcher County Conference met with the Payne Gap Church from August 22nd to 23rd, 1953 and appointed the following delegates:

Goldie Flaery	Loyd Parker	Patsy Killins
Grandvel Marchel	Shelow Back	Joyce Senters
Myrtel Cambel	Bob Roberts	Velva Senters
Alpha Looney	Hubert Back	Doris Swindal
Nola Short	John Freeman	Sue Swindal
Hassie Gipson	Bill Anderson	Vonda Green
Margert Sergeant	Lena McPeeks	Maggie Tackett
Ersul Sergeant	Edith Wright	Edna Bates
Effie Miller	Alice Fae Anderson	Lonnie Bates
T. D. Puckett	Cordie Thompkins	Ode Mullins
Braska Puckett	J. E. Hood	Kathern Moor
Arved Mullins	Melvin Killins	Alie Wyend
Ethel Mullins	Luther Dingus	Jehemiah Cook
Lawrence Childers	Narvil Hanshell	Alma Ray Bartley
Alvie Childers	Kemern Gardner	Olie Boyd
Alpha Taylor	Crit Belcher	Cora Able
Robert Trent	Kathern Harvey	Barber Akers
Preciella Trent	Jenevia Buttler	Alberta Blevins
Bill Haris	Gertrue Hale	Benard Cauldell
Ottis Thompkins	Robert Prater	Edward Berwer
Ballard Jones		

Our standing is as follows:

Number of Churches	23
Numbers of Members	887
Number of Sunday Schools	18
Number on Roll	1700
Average Attendance	1450

Our work for the year has been great. We have had five new churches. Help from the churches for the Orphan Home and Foreign Mission has been fine. Pray that this good work will keep up for the glory of God.

Ezra Johnson, Moderator
Johnny Sykes, Clerk. L

This letter was read, passed and accepted. Dickenson County responded with next letter as follows:

To the John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptist when convened with Burdine Church, Burdine, Ky.; began on the 10th of September and closing September 13, 1953.

We the Dickenson County Quarterly Conference, met with the Fleming Town Church on Friday before the fourth Sunday in July, 1953, and organized by electing Rev. E. M. Rose, moderator; Rev. Alvie Dingus, assistant moderator, and Clinton Lamber and Lloyd Hillman as clerks.

The following delegates were from their respective churches and were delegates to the Association:

Clinchco—Warren Salyers, Munsey Mullins.

Cold Spring—Absent.

Counts Chapel—Ira Stout, Emmie Stout and Bell Rose.

Davis Chapel—Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mullins and Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bevins.

Dyers Chapel—Maggie Rose.

Duncan Gap—Mr. and Mrs. Beldon Mullins and Mr. and Mrs. Noah Hamilton.

Fleming Town—Ervie Dutton and Lee Artrip.

Ferbia—Mr. and Mrs. Odus Sturgill and Ida Dotson.

Fremont—Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Smith, Ruth Deel, Mrs. Joe Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Smith.

Georges Fork—Absent.

Hill Ridge—Mr. and Mrs. Arrett Rose, Mr. and Mrs. Alvie Lee Fleming, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hill.

Honey Camp—Bessie Rose.

Hubbard Chapel—Mr. and Mrs. Barnie Collins and Nora Rose.

Lick Fork—Mr. and Mrs. Brack Powers, Russel Mullins, and Mr. and Mrs. Tivis Browning.

Martins Chapel—Bernie Long.

Middle Branch—Ritter Lambert, Mr. and Mrs. Grady Rasnick, Francis Lambert.

Mill Creek—Zella Lambert, Marthan Sauls, Delman Farmer, Elmer Kennedy, Fannie De Kennedy.

Mills Chapel—Mr. and Mrs. Roy Salyers, James Bradley, Nancy Flaner, Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Salyers.

Pine Creek—Willie Newbery and Vandney Newbery.

Pine Grove—Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Gouge and Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Hamilton.

Pippins Chapel—Troy Large and Dewey Salyers.

Puther Chapel—Eda Yates, Mrs. Lee Carty, Pearl Bise, Allen Yates.

Pyles Memorial—John Riley, Kate Mullins.

Rachel Chapel—Alton Mullins, and Samantha Mullins.

Rugsby—Mr. and Mrs. Claude Martin, Lula Kennedy.

Splash Dam—Jim Mullins and Maude Mullins.

Tarpon—Martha Wright, Gladys Holbrook, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Potter.

Valley View—Agnes Vanover, Mr. and Mrs. Barney Stanley, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Clay and Lillie Hughes.

Yates Chapel—Mr. and Mrs. Grayson Yates, Mary Pucket and Mildred Yates.

Our standing as follows:

Number of Churches	29
Membership	1735
Sunday Schools	22
Ordained Ministers	37
Licentiates	8

By order of the Dickenson County Quarterly Conference while in regular session with the Fleming Town Church, July 24-26, 1953.

Rev. E. M. Rose, *Moderator*

Rev. Alvie Dingus, *Assistant Moderator*

Clinton Lambert, Lloyd Hillman, *Clerks*

This letter was read, passed and accepted.

There being no other letters, Brother Albert Dingus gave an oral report from Kentucky State Association. This report was heartily accepted by the association. Treasury report was also read. This finishing work at this hour the conference adjourned until 2:00 p.m. Friday afternoon.

FRIDAY MORNING PREACHING SERVICE 11:00 A.M.

The Committee appointed Brothers C. W. Noel and Ersel McPeaks for this hour of service. Brother Noel read for the lesson two verses of the 90th Psalm. Prayer was omitted. Text used was "Establish Your Works."

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION 2:00 P.M.

Conference opened with singing by Brother Ben Powers. The Moderator read for the lesson the 23rd Psalm. Prayer by Sister Mae Vanover.

The Moderator called for unfinished business. A letter from New Durm Conference was presented which was read, passed and accepted. It read as follows:

Greetings to the John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptists. We, the Russell County, New Durm Conference, met with the Guiding Light Church and organized by electing Harley Dye, Moderator; Kyle Hubbard, assistant moderator, and Faye Rasnake, Clerk. The following delegates were from their respective churches:

Guiding Light Church—Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Smith, Jason Lane, Lucille Arwood, Lino Diomon and J. O. Keen.

Drills Chapel—Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hess, B. E. Dye, Hue Coleman, Eunice Whited.

Ephesus Church—Mr. and Mrs. Cleve Dye, Ellen Dye.

Fullers Chapel—Ralph Rasnake, Walter Whited, Corb Ray, Mr. and Mrs. Guss Hess.

Hales Chapel—Ira Presley, Lizzie Presley, July Presley, Lottie Breeding, Dock Presley, Dall Ray, Alva Ray, Charlie Presley and Lessie Presley.

Fletcher Ridge Church—Mr. and Mrs. Benton Colemon, Fannie Fletcher, Dewey Nuckels.

Mount Zion Church—Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Dye, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Honaker.

Our standing is as follows:

Number of Churches	9
Number of Members	400
Number of Ministers	19
Number of Sunday Schools	4

Done by order of New Durm Conference while in regular session with Guiding Light Church, Aug. 7-9, 1953.

Harley Dye, *Moderator*

Kyle Hubbard, *Assistant Moderator*

Faye Rasnake, *Clerk*

Next item was appointing messengers to various associations.

KENTUCKY STATE ASSOCIATION

Albert Dingus L. D. Mahan Alva Dingus Lester Able

CLINCH VALLEY ASSOCIATION

Eugene Atkins C. W. Isom Dallas Keeley

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION

Alva Dingus

SANDY VALLEY ASSOCIATION

Walter Whited

Harley Dye

Next item was the questioning of minutes for the year.

Letcher County	525
New Durm	300
Dickenson County	775
Tri-State	100
Total	1700

This finishing work at this hour, conference adjourned until 9:30 a.m. Saturday morning.

The Ministers Conference was organized by retaining the same Clerk and Moderator.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE 2:00 P.M.

The Committee appointed Brothers Harley Dye and Ben Powers for this hour of service. Prayer by Sister Harley Dye. The 1st and 2nd verse of the 1st chapter of Hebrew was used for the text.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE 7:30 P.M.

The Committee appointed Brothers Don Sexton and D. C. Hughes for this service. Reading for scripture lesson, 1st chapter of Titus. Prayer by Sister Mary Powers.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION 9:00 A.M.

Conference opened by singing "Hold to God's Unchanging Hand." The Moderator read for the lesson the 1st Psalm. Prayer by Brother Henry Smith.

Moderator called for unfinished business. Tri-State Conference presented a letter which was read, passed and accepted.

To The John Thomas Association of Freewill Baptists when convened with Burdine Church, Burdine, Kentucky, Saturday before the 2nd Sunday in September, 1953, we, the Tri-State Conference met with the Kelsa Chapel by special call of Conference September 6, 1953. Claude Conn, Moderator and Edward May, Clerk.

The following delegates were chosen to attend the association:

Beech Grove Church—Brother Crawford Hardin, Brother Kenny Justus.

Harman Chapel—Brothers Willie Compton and Ernest Stiltner.

Big Rock Church—Brothers Ben Spencer and Rose Wagner.

Kelsa Chapel—Brothers Henry Estep, Edward May and Lonnie Wolford.

Our standing is as follows:

Number of Churches	4
Number of Members	200
Ordained Ministers	6
Licentiates	3

The following ministers' characters were passed as good:

Claude Conn	Friel Wagner	George Harding
Willie Compton	Alfred Fanning	Stewart Ratliff

Next item was voting to take Thursday from the Association, having three days instead of the usual four. This was voted unanimously by standing vote. Thursday being dropped, and will continue on Friday before the 2nd Sunday in September. Work being finished at this hour, Conference adjourned until 2:00 p.m. Saturday evening.

SATURDAY MORNING PREACHING SERVICE 11:00 A.M.

The Committee appointed Brothers E. M. Rose and J. C. Rasnake for this hour of service. Brother Rasnake read for the lesson a part of the 27th chapter of Matthew. Prayer by Sister Linda Caldwell. Brother Rasnake used for his text "What Shall I Do With Jesus, Called Christ."

SATURDAY EVENING SESSION 2:00 P.M.

Conference opened with singing. Moderator reading for the lesson the 34th Psalm. Prayer by Brother Anett Rose.

The Moderator called for unfinished business. An oral report was given from Kentucky State Association by Brother Senter. This report was passed and accepted by the Association. A written report from the Executive Board was as follows: "We, the executive board, ask the Churches of this Association to elect pastors which belong to the Freewill Baptists Churches.

O. T. Smith, *Chairman*
A. D. Halbrook
Earet Rose
Luther Dingus
Lester Able

This finishing the work of the Association, by move and second it adjourned until Friday before the second Sunday in September when it will convene with the Clinchco Church, Clinchco, Virginia, unless called together by the Moderator.

MINISTER CONFERENCE

Letters from the four minister conferences were read and passed on as a whole by the Association. They are as follows:

We, the Dickenson County Ministers Conference, met with the Fleming Town Church on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in July, 1953 and organized by electing Rev. E. M. Rose as Moderator, and Lloyd Hillman and Clinton Lambert as Clerks.

The following ministers were present:

Alvie Dingus	Quinton Keith	Gobel Rose
Chas. Dutton	Casper Lane	Maston Rose
Kermit Deel	Hie Mullins	Josh Rose
Ervin Hall	Lee Mullins	Troy Robinson
Emery Estep	Ted Mullins	Henry Smith
Bill Harrison	Jerry Mullins	Fred Taylor
Lawrence Hicks	Monrow Mullins	Luther Taylor
E. C. Kiser	E. C. Reedy	Emory Vanover
Willard Kiser	E. M. Rose	James Wright

Licentiates:

James Hobbs	Everett McGlothen	Ivan Reedy
Joe Johnson	Newton McGlothen	Luke Wright

The following ministers were absent:

W. R. Bise	Vernon Kiser	Cecil Ramey
S. P. Davis	Rit Large	Alex Tompkins
Asa Hughes	George Mooney	Licentiates
Walter Hughes	Jerry Mullins	Everett Smith
Everett Johnson		

All ministers' names were called and passed upon as a whole. By a move and second the characters of the ministers were passed as good except Lonzo Edwards. By his request he was dropped. David Kennedy was dropped for Violating the by-laws of Ministers Conference, Article No. 5.

By order of the Dickenson County Ministers Conference while in regular session with Fleming Town Church, Clintwood, Va., on July 23, 1953.

Clinton Lambert, Lloyd Hillman, *Clerks*
Rev. E. M. Rose, *Moderator*

We, the New Durm Ministers Conference, met with the Guiding Light Church, Aug. 9, 1953, and organized by electing Harley Dye as Moderator and Faye Rasnake as Clerk.

There were 8 ordained ministers present and 11 absent. Their names were called and each one was voted on and their characters passed as good. They are as follows:

Kyle Hubbard
Benton Miller
Lee Wilson
Harley Dye
Charlie Keen
Elmer Hess
James Hall

Henry Ball
Daphus Cook
Mose Napper
Edward Perkins
Glenn Peck
Howard Bostic

James O. Hutchison
J. C. Rasnake
Homer Wilson
Gonion Kelley
M. P. Ball
W. E. Rasnake

By order of the New Durm Conference while in regular session with the Guiding Light Church, August 9, 1953.

Harley Dye, *Moderator*
Faye Rasnake, *Clerk*

The Letcher County Ministers' Conference met with Payne Gap Church Saturday, August 22, 1952. Ezra Johnson was appointed Moderator and Johnny Sykes was appointed Clerk. The following ministers were present:

Albert Dingus
Lonnie Hale
L. D. Mahan
J. P. Banks
W. A. Looney
Ezra Johnson
Robert Maddin
Ersel McPeeks

Don Sexton
C. W. Isom
Johnny Stoffer
Ira Harvey
John Vanover
Ned Wesley
Gene Miller
Johnny Skeens

John Akers
Bill Harris
Lester Able
J. P. Babks
Clyde Huff
Langley Milton
Eddie Bryant
C. O. Caudell

The following ministers were absent:

V. C. Manis
Jimmie Seals
Forest Belvery
Darvin Mullins
Parker Brewer
Irvin J. Harvey

Charlie Graham
Edward H. Hall
Frank Delph
Harold Miles
J. H. Miller
Everett Potter

Henry Don Vest
Hilt Taylor
Wesley Thomas
Bill Smith
Leo Good

We have 41 ordained ministers and six licentiates. The following ministers' names were dropped from the Letcher Ministers Conference: Monrowe Hubbard, Hobert Spriggs. Character of the rest of the ministers both present and absent was passed as good.

Ezra Johnson, *Moderator*
Johnny Sykes, *Clerk*

This finishing the work of the Minister Conference it adjourned until Saturday before the second Sunday in September when it will convene with the Clinchco Church unless called together by the Moderator.

SATURDAY EVENING PREACHING SESSION 3:00 P.M.

The Committee appointed Brothers Claude Conn and Ezra Johnson for this hour of service. By request, Sister Bonnie Pritchard lead in prayer. Reading for the lesson was the 4th chapter of Timothy, 8 verses. Brother Johnson used for his text, "Preach the Word." Brother Conn used for his text, "Behold the Lamb of God That Taketh Away the Sins of the World."

SATURDAY NIGHT PREACHING SERVICE 7:30 P.M.

The Committee appointed Brothers Lester Able and Bill Smith for the night service. The reading for the lesson was Rev. 16:1-9. Prayer by Durant Hibbitts.

The Association wishes to thank the people in and around Burdine, Kentucky, for their kindness and fine spirit shown and extended to the people during this Association.

Ministers' Report

CLAUD CONN

Churches Pastored	3
Sermons Preached	125
Conversions Witnessed	35
Number Baptized	20
Burials Attended	14
Memorials Held	1
Prayer Services Held	30
Miles Traveled	1000
Amount Received	\$10.00
Revivals Held	4

WILLIE COMPTON

Churches Pastored	None
Sermons Preached	104
Conversions Witnessed	10
Number Baptized	10
Burials Attended	4
Memorials Held	None
Prayer Services Held	52
Miles Traveled	3000
Amount Received	None
Revivals Held	5

GEORGE HARDIN

Churches Pastored	1
Sermons Preached	140
Number Baptized	24
Burials Attended	2
Conversions Witnessed	40
Memorials Held	1
Prayer Service	0
Miles Traveled	14000
Amount Received	\$31.00
Revivals Held	5

L. D. MAHAN

Churches Pastored	1
Sermons Preached	60
Conversions Witnessed	12
Number Baptized	8
Burials Attended	6
Memorials Held	1
Prayer Services Held	12
S. S. Organized	1
Miles Traveled	800
Money Received	\$50.00

IRVIN HARVEY

Churches Pastored	1
Sermons Preached	150
Number Baptized	25
Memorials Held	7
Miles Traveled	1500

L. P. HALE

Churches Pastored	1
Sermons Preached	75
Revivals (helped in)	1
Conversions Witnessed	2
Prayer Services Held	25
Miles Traveled	3000

LEO GOOD

Churches Pastored (Ass't)	1
Sermons Preached	80
Revivals Held	1
Conversions Witnessed	2
Prayer Services Held	25
Miles Traveled	75

JOHN SKEENS

Churches Pastored	1
Sermons Preached	205
Revivals Held	5
Conversions Witnessed	45
Number Baptized	18
Burials Attended	5
Memorials Held	2
Prayer Services Held	25
Churches Organized	1
S. S. Organized	2
Miles Traveled	1200
Money Received	\$18.00

ROBERT MADDEN

Churches Pastored	1
Sermons Preached	100
Conversions Witnessed	14
Number Baptized	11
Burials Attended	1
Churches Organized	1
S. S. Organized	1
Miles Traveled	1200
Money Received	\$30.00

LESTER ABLE

Sermons Preached	28
Conversions Witnessed	7
Prayer Services Held	30
Miles Traveled	200

CLYDE HUFF

Sermons Preached	150
Revivals Held	1
Conversions Witnessed	12
Number Baptized	12
Burials Attended	5
Memorials Held	3
Prayer Services Held	6
Couples Married	2
Miles Traveled	300
Money Received	\$50.00

JOHNIE STOFER

Churches Pastored (Ass't).....	2
Sermons Preached	60
Revivals Held	2
Conversions Witnessed	20
Number Baptized	4
Burials Attended	2
Prayer Services Held	20

W. A. LOONEY

Churches Pastored (Ass't).....	2
Sermons Preached	48
Conversions Witnessed	17
Number Baptized	16
Burials Attended	7
Prayer Services Held	4
Miles Traveled	1959
Money Received	\$14.17

EZRA JOHNSON

Sermons Preached	170
Conversions Witnessed	25
Number Baptized	26
Revivals Held	2
Prayer Services Held	54
Churches Pastored	4
Funerals Held	6
Memorials Held	3
Miles Traveled	3000
Money Received	\$337.37

DONALD SEXTON

Churches Pastored	1
Sermons Preached	119
Conversions Witnessed	4
Number Baptized	4
Prayer Services Held	73
Miles Traveled	2000
Money Received	\$260.00

CHARLIE KEEN

Sermons Preached	95
Revivals Held	3
Conversions Witnessed	25
Number Baptized	6
Burials Attended	8
Memorials Held	5
Prayer Services Held	45
Miles Traveled	2000
Money Received	\$100.00

HARLEY DYE

Churches Pastored	4
Sermons Preached	190
Revivals Held	1
Conversions Witnessed	7
Number Baptized	10
Burials Attended	15
Memorials (Helped in).....	6
Prayer Services Held	15
Miles Traveled	2100
Money Received	\$320.00

LEE WILSON

Churches Pastored	1
Sermons Preached	25
Conversions Witnessed	5
Burials Attended	3
Memorials Held	5
Prayer Services Held	5
Miles Traveled	100

L. D. COLEMAN

Churches Pastored	1
Sermons Preached	64
Revivals Held	1
Professions Witnessed	23
Additions	7
Burials Attended	1
Memorials Held	2
Miles Traveled	600
Money Received	\$254.00

EDDIE BRYANT

Churches Pastored	1
Sermons Preached	50
Revivals Held	3
Conversions Witnessed	12
Number Baptized	8
Burials Attended	15
Memorials Held	3
Prayer Services Held	50
Churches Organized	1
S. S. Organized	1
Miles Traveled	200

ALBERT DINGUS

Churches Pastored	2
Sermons Preached (about) ..	35
Conversions Witnessed	25
Number Baptized	24
Burials Attended (about) ..	10
Couples Married (about)	6
Miles Traveled (about)	1200

OBITUARIES

IN MEMORY OF ROXIE JESSIE BLANKENSHIP

She was the daughter of Thomas and Jane Jessie. Roxie was married to Sanford Blankenship, and to this union was born one girl, Irene. Sister Roxie became ill and sent for L. D. Coleman, a Freewill Baptist minister. She confessed a hope in Christ and looked so sweet when she made peace with God and was baptized on Thursday. She looked so sweet, dressed in white, walking out in the water to do what the Lord said for believers to do in His name.

She left a silver haired mother, one daughter, four years old, two brothers, and two sisters to mourn her loss, but we feel our loss is Heaven's gain. We trust that she will be waiting for us at the portals if we keep the faith and his commandments and hold out faithful to our God.

Written by her sisters:Lillian and Lester

IN MEMORY OF NELLIE KILGORE

The subject of this sketch, Nellie Kilgore, was born on Russell Creek, Wise County, Virginia, August 19, 1867, the daughter of William Henderson Kilgore and Patsy (Wright) Mays. When she was still young her mother died and her father moved from Virginia City to the Big Laurel Community where most of her life was spent.

She was married to Robbin Kilgore of Big Laurel, at the age of twenty, who passed away nineteen or twenty years ago, and since that time she has made her home with her youngest son, Orville Kilgore, Hellier, Pike County, Ky.

She professed a hope in Christ in August, 1933, and joined the Allegheny Free Will Baptist Church and was baptized by her son, Rev. Dock Kilgore, at the August meeting that year. She lived a faithful Christian and was always ready to assist and give a helping hand to anyone in need or distress.

She became ill on August 12, 1950, and passed away January 30, 1951. Burial was in the family cemetery at Big Laurel. She was faithful throughout her sickness and until death came to relieve her suffering. Her pain and distress was so hard to bear at times that it caused her to be absent-minded on some occasions.

The author of this obituary, John M. Stapleton, spent three weeks with her just prior to her death and her last words to

him, when he was taking his departure, were, "Johnny, I have labored hard all my life here, never had any rest, but I'll soon be at rest."

She was 84 at the time she was called home. Surviving are four daughters and two sons: Lou Gidson, Hellier, Ky.; Venie Pigg, Louise, Ky.; Lizzie Pigg, Hellier, Ky.; Opal Hylton Williamson, Keat, Va.; Henderson Kilgore, Ash Camp, Ky., and Orville Kilgore, Hellier, Ky.

Preceding her in death were four sons, Dock, Isaac, Alfred and Wade Kilgore. Also surviving are two sisters, Mrs. Eliza Mullins, sixty-two grand children and sixty-four great grand children.

She has left all these kindred and a host of friends to mourn her loss. But while their loss it is Heaven's gain.

Written by: Mrs. Alva Childres

IN MEMORY OF SUE OSBORNE

Sue Osborne was born February 28, 1885, at Louisa, Ky. She was married to Charley Osborne in 1909. To this union seven children were born. She had been a Christian since she was eighteen years old. She endured many a hardship in this life and was loved by everyone who knew her. She had suffered for three years from a stroke which left her paralyzed. She died at my home on August 9, 1952 at the age of sixty-seven. She told us she was going to Heaven, so I think our loss was Heaven's gain.

Written by: Mrs. Marie Williams (daughter)

IN MEMORY OF SARAH A. SLEMP

Sarah A. Slemp was born Dec. 8, 1885, in this community and she has been a life-long resident here. She died July 7, 1952, after a long illness.

She is survived by her husband, Edward F. Slemp, and four sons, Stewart, Averaer, Clinton and Bascon; three daughters, Mrs. Emerson Freeman, Mrs. Edd Gass and Mrs. Robert Turner. She is also survived by 18 grandchildren.

She was a good mother to all her children and she will be missed by all the family. She was converted and joined the Ferby Chapel Freewill Baptist Church several years ago.

She has often said that when it was God's will for her to go she was ready and through all her suffering she prayed as long as consciousness remained with her.

IN MEMORY OF M. F. HESS

M. F. Hess deceased this life on August 19, 1952. He was 69 years old. He married Rosie Jackson 54 years ago. To this union was born 8 children, Naomi White of Honaker, Va.; Gussie Raynof, Brill, Va.; Carrie Dye Lynn, Spring, Va.; Tinnie Hess, Drill, Va. Four children preceded him in death. He professed Christ 20 years ago and united with the Freewill Baptist Church. He told his friends he was going to rest.

Written by: Barbara Hess

IN MEMORY OF DIXIE LEE BOWEN

Dixie Lee Bowen was born July 12, 1881 in Russell County. She died July 12, 1953, making her stay here on earth 69 years.

She was married to Frank Bowen in 1896. They had three children, two girls and one boy. The boy and her husband are deceased. She had 11 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

She had two brothers and two sisters. She professed faith in Christ years ago and belonged to the Freewill Baptist Church. She lived a consecrated life and was a faithful servant until the end. Ministers she selected for her funeral were Howard Bastic, Hobert Bastic and Everett Rasnake.

Written by: Lillie Bowen

IN MEMORY OF CLARENCE RASNAKE

Clarence A. Rasnake was born April 1, 1911. He died May 5, 1953, making his stay on earth 42 years. He was married to Murtill Tiller July 24, 1931. To this union was born 11 children, eight boys and three girls. Two died in infancy.

He professed faith in Christ in 1949 and united with the Missionary Baptist Church and lived a faithful Christian life until his death.

He leaves a wife and nine children, seven boys and two girls, all of Cleveland, Va. Also his mother and four brothers, Rev. John Rasnake, Bristol, Va.; Harmon Rasnake, Nicklesville, Va.; Carmel Rasnake, Cedar Bluff, Va.; Carl Rasnake, Cleveland, Va., and eight sisters, Mrs. Ellen Lester, Hyden, Ky.; Mrs. Myrtle Rasnake, Duty, Va.; Mrs. Ada Deel, Kingsport, Tenn.; Mrs. Lizzie Tiller, Cleveland, Va.; Mrs. Fannie Kelley, Cleveland, Va.; Mrs. Laura Johnson, Cleveland, Va.; Mrs. Delphia Ball, Abingdon, Va., and Mrs. Thelma Musick, Cleveland, Va.

He leaves a host of friends and relatives. We feel our loss is his eternal gain.

Written by: Ethel Barton

IN MEMORY OF P. S. RASNAKE

P. S. Rasnake was born Sept. 2, 1870, son of William and Leah Rasnake. His first marriage was to Sofa Musick April 24, 1890. To this union was born eight children, five boys and three girls. Three preceded him in death. The five living now are Ellen Lister, John Rasnake, Ada Deel, Myrtle Rasnake.

His first wife died Sept. 1, 1906. He was then married to Henrietta Osborne June 2, 1910 and to this union was born nine children. One preceded him in death. The eight surviving are Clarence Rasnake, Carmel Rasnake, Lizzie Tiller, Fannie Keely, Carl Rasnake, Laura Johnson, Delphia Ball, and Thelma Musick. He leaves behind his wife and 13 children, 71 grandchildren and 27 great grandchildren, three brothers, J. C. Rasnake, Tom Rasnake, Lilbern Rasnake. About two years ago he professed faith in Christ. He departed this life January 7, 1953, making his stay on earth 82 years.

We trust that his departing will be a light to his family. We feel our loss is Heaven's gain.

IN MEMORY OF NANCY ELIZABETH POWERS

Born April 27, 1877. Deceased this life Sept. 26, 1952. Age 75 years. She had lived a Christian life fifty some years and was baptized and joined the Freewill Baptist Church in the year 1928 and went to church as long as she was able to go.

United in marriage to Reuben Cumbo Powers in the year of 1893, April 15 and bore to this union 11 children, three deceased.

She had 28 grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren and two brothers and two sisters and a host of other relatives and friends.

We wish to thank all the people for their assistance and kindness during the sickness and funeral of our mother.

Sleep on, dear mother, and take your rest,
God called you to be with the blest,
May we meet on the other shore,
Meet there to part no more.
When we lay our burden down,
And go home to wear a crown,
There I hope to shake your hand,
And live together in Glory Land.

R. C. Powers and Family

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE MASSEY

In sad and loving memory we write the obituary of George Massey. Born March 22, 1879, died April 14, 1953. He was married to Annetta Johnson. To this union was born ten children. Five preceded him in death. He leaves a wife, two daughters and three sons to mourn. Their loss was Heaven's gain.

He was a devoted Christian for 19 years and helped to establish the Freewill Baptist Church at Alleghaney. Before he passed away he told us all that he was ready to go, that he had a better home waiting for him.

We loved him, yes, we loved him,
But Jesus loved him more.
And he has gently called him,
To yonder shining shore.
The golden gates were opened,
A gentle voice said come,
And with farewell unspoken,
He calmly entered home.

Written by: His daughter—Mrs. Mary M. Childers
His brother in Christ Hobert Baldrige

IN MEMORY OF ELLEN ESTEP ENGLAND

(Sister Ellen England's request as to how she wanted her funeral. Written by her own hand.)

Paw Paw, Ky., March 9, 1951

Here is the way I would like for my Funeral to be conducted. When all is ready for the funeral I then want to be carried down to our little brown Church House by the side of the road and I want Brother E. D. Coleman, if living, and Brother Claud Conn and Brother E. L. Watson to preach my funeral and I want the song sung over me, "I Wonder What They Are Doing In Heaven Tonight," and I want Sister Lillian and Sister Jenie Raines to pray and then I want all my friends march around and pay their last respects and then close my casket and nail down and carry me up on the hill and lay me to rest with my children and friends who have gone on before.

Signed, Ellen England

Ples England was born Nov. 9, 1896.

Ellen Estep England was born Aug. 9, 1903.

Both were baptized by Claud Conn Oct. 22, 1949

IN MEMORY OF MARY WILLIAMS

Mary Williams was born April 12, 1872. Died September 23, 1950 at the age of 78. She was married to Dell Williams on May 12, 1895. To this union 11 children were born. Five preceded her in death. The six children living are Bill Williams of Hardy, Ky., John of Sprigg, W. Va., Edna of Cincinnati, Lillian of Big Rock, Va., Rosa of Hurley, Va., Edgar of Sprigg, W. Va. She had 28 grandchildren surviving her.

She confessed a hope in Christ and was baptized by L. Dodge Coleman in the year of 1935 and she lived a true Christian life and was in fellowship and good standing with the Union Light Freewill Baptist Church at Paw Paw, Kentucky at the time of her departure. She was loved by all who knew her and her church. Her seat at home and in church can never be filled with her love and kindness and Christian fruits. It is with a sad heart but loving remembrance we write her obituary now. Father, children and all her friends, mother has gone to her happy home and if you ever expect to meet mother again, believe, repent and be born again and prepare to meet the grim monster of death and face judgment that is just in front of all of us. Be faithful to God and give glory, praise and honor to Christ who is our conqueror over death, hell and the grave. The Good Book tells us whosoever liveth and believe in Christ shall never die. What a joy it must have been to Sister Williams when she went to sleep here and awoke over there. Our sympathy to her loving companion and children. Then our hearts go out in sympathy to the good brothers and sisters of the Freewill Baptist Church in the loss of their sister.

By Dodge Coleman by request of her companion.

IN MEMORY OF CORA COLEMAN JUSTICE

Cora Justice was born April 14, 1889. Died Jan. 16, 1951. Her stay here on earth was 62 years. She was married to H. T. Justice April 19, 1909 and to this union was born ten children. Three of them preceded her in death. She is survived by seven children, Harper, Justice, Mahlon, Tolbert, Lois, Brookie, Lola and Alice, also her husband.

She confessed a hope in Christ and was baptized by J. H. Stapleton, a Missionary Baptist minister, in 1910. She took up her membership with the Freewill Baptist Church about 1926 and when she was in reach of the church she always filled her seat and deceased this life in full fellowship with the church.

She wrote me a letter while she was in the sanitorium in the state of Washington. She said she was coming back home to die and that she wanted me to preach and I asked her how would it be with her soul if she were to depart with this life on or about January 9, 1951. Her reply to me was, "I'll just fall asleep in the arms of Jesus." She also told the writer in the presence of her husband, H. T. Justice, she wanted to be buried by her father and mother in the shade of the tree and also she wanted a coffin made black and I, L. Dodge Coleman, believe that Sister Cora is at rest in paradise and we preach over her deceased body. Now a word to her husband and children, if you ever want to meet mother again you must repent, believe in God, be born again and then you all will be prepared to meet God and your mother in peace if you endure until your departure. There will be no repentance after death. Mother is gone but not forgotten.

Written by request by: L. Dodge Coleman, her uncle

IN MEMORY OF JAMES A. HURLEY

James A. Hurley was born March 24, 1863. Deceased July 29, 1952. Age 89. He confessed a hope in Christ about June 14, and baptized by Sam Hurley and he lived a different life and by his fruits his life was changed from carnal things to spiritual things and I, the writer, was present at the time Brother Hurley baptized him and I have had many talks with Jim about his soul's welfare.

He told me and I believe it to be true that he knew he had to die and that he prayed and trusted in the Lord to take care of his soul. Believers in God live beyond the tomb.

Written by: L. Dodge Coleman

IN MEMORY OF RAUSIE FELICIA MEADE

It is with a sad and broken heart that I attempt to write an obituary of my dear sweet mother, Rausie Felicia Meade. Mother was born May 8, 1881 and departed from this earth February 2, 1953. Her stay on earth was 71 years.

She was united in marriage to Charlie Harris Meade January 11, 1900. To this union was born eight children. Three of us have preceded her in death. She leaves to mourn her death: a husband, four sons, Acie, Dewey, Arthur and Cossie, one daughter, Flossie, thirty-six grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, four brothers, one sister, two half-brothers, and many, many other friends.

She was converted and joined the Freewill Baptist Church at the age of twelve and lived a devout Christian life. It would be rare, indeed, to find a home in her community where she has not ministered to their needs in some way. Her life was a guiding light, not only to her immediate family but to all who have known her. I feel that she, like the great Apostle Paul, fought a wondrous and glorious fight. She seemed never to tire of Christian service.

She suffered untold aches and pains in this unfriendly world; but I am sure that the greatest ache of all was from her heart of love with grievances for lost loved ones and many friends.

My heart's desire and prayer to God is that all who knew her will make mother's God your God.

Written by: Her son Cossie

IN MEMORY OF MARY E. DOTSON

Our Heavenly Father called and mother has answered. Thursday morning, April 9, 1953, near 10 o'clock she slipped away so sweet and peaceful to the mansion Jesus went to prepare for her.

Mary E. Dotson was born Nov. 4, 1871, the daughter of Forest T. and Sarah J. Kennedy. She married Charlie B. Dotson Dec. 23, 1891 at the age of 21. To this union was born six children.

She accepted Christ as her personal Saviour between the age of 12 and 14 years and was baptized at the age of 14 and was a life long member of the Freewill Baptist Church. She was the oldest member of the Rachel Chapel Church which she loved so much. She never lost faith in her Master through all her sufferings. She always put her faith and trust in God for relief. Whatever her trials were she always requested her friends and loved ones to pray for her.

During her last days she rejoiced at different times. On one occasion she said, 'I cannot sing any more but I will just say the words.' And she repeated these words—"The walls of that city are built of bright jasper, The streets are all made of pure gold, There I shall see my redeemer so gracious, Mine eyes soon his glory behold."

Among one of her last testimonies was on Sunday before her passing on Thursday. She requested prayer of her church

and about the same hour as prayer was being offered for her relief she became calm and rested and rejoiced with an angelic look on her face and said, "I know my Redeemer liveth and it won't be long until I will be with him."

Surviving besides her husband are the following children: Bayard B., and Estes E. Dotson, Clintwood, Earl Dotson of Mansfield, Ohio, Maxie Keith, Caney Ridge, Belle Sullivan, Wise, Va., and Ida Keith of Akron, Ohio.

Other survivors are fifteen grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren and six brothers—Wade Kennedy of Bristol, Va., Ben Kennedy, Wise, Va., Dave and John Kennedy, Caney Ridge, Va., Estil and Dewit of Coeburn, Va. She also leaves a host of other relatives and friends to mourn her passing.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Sunday, April 12, at Rachel Chapel with the Rev. Maston Rose and Rev. Enoch Rose officiating.

IN MEMORY OF CORBETT CHASE DEEL

Corbett Chase Deel, son of Pricey Ann Deel, was born February 22, 1904, in Buchanan County, Virginia, and passed from this life July 14, 1953, at the age of 49 years, 4 months and 22 days. He spent his last days under treatment in the Bristol Memorial Hospital.

He was married to Stella Arrington on December 21, 1922, to which union was born three children, Wise Deel, of Kingsport, Tenn., Gray Deel, of Coeburn, Va., and one daughter who died in infancy. Also one brother, Cleveland Deel, preceded him in death.

Surviving Corbett are two brothers, Paul and Harrison, and four sisters, Linda, Vinie, Mae and Ruby.

Corbett was converted to Christ and joined the Freewill Baptist Church at Pewther Chapel, in Dickenson County, about 20 years ago. He was chosen as a Deacon of his church and served very actively and effectively during his last 16 years. He was very prompt, dependable and faithful in all his church work.

He also rendered valuable service as a member of the Executive Board of the Dickenson County Quarterly Conference for about the past 10 years.

He gained the love and respect of all his fellow members in his work in the Masonic Lodge, Number 66, at Clintwood, Va. His Lodge members conducted the last rites at his funeral in a lovely manner that will be long remembered by his family.

As an employee of the Clinchfield Coal Corporation for about 30 years, he was held in highest esteem by his employers and fellow workers.

He was in ill health the last several months of his life but he remained humble and patient all the way through. He did not dread death, neither did he fail on any reasonable opportunity to cheer and admonish his Christian friends to be faithful, and his sinner friends to yield their lives to the Lord.

His earthly life of joy and weeping is over but his influence and wonderful Christian example will never be forgotten in circles where he lived and worked. The shadows and pains of this life never dimmed his thoughts and hopes for the glorious life beyond.

He leaves a host of friends and loved ones to mourn his loss but we feel assured that our loss is Heaven's gain. We know that we cannot call him back but by the Grace of God we can go to him and "ever be with the Lord."

Written by the family and Rev. S. E. Reedy

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been brought, as we believe, by the divine grace to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Preserver, we do now solemnly and joyfully covenant and agree, by God's help, to walk 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 quit the great duty of prayer for ourselves and others; that by divine assistance we will endeavor to bring to 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, ordinance, discipline and doctrine of the church; that we will contribute cheerfully, according to our ability, to the support of the ministry, the expense 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.

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 Freewill 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 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.

MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH

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 ordinance. 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.

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 into 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,

RECEPTION OF MEMBERS (Continued)

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.

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 a four-fifth 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 doctrine 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 treasury 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 ordained by the pastor or other regular minister, ordination consisting of charge, laying on of hands and prayer. It is their duty to serve at the Lord's table, to distribute of the bounty 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 regular 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.

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 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 Freewill Baptist Church, he must first join this church. Then the proceedings are the same as with licentiates; which is as follows:

When he feels Divinely called he is given a license by Pastor of the Church to which he belongs. Then he is free to exercise his gift by exhortation for a period of twelve months. If proven satisfactory he is recommended to the Quarterly Meeting by said Church. Then from the Quarterly Meeting to the Ordaining Council. If proven satisfactory then he is ordained, otherwise he is granted a new license to exhort for twelve months more.

5. Any minister leaving the Freewill 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 Freewill 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 Freewill 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.

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

BY-LAWS OF MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

1. 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 Meetings are requested 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. Any ministers failing to report for a period of two years, either in person or by letter, or both, shall automatically exclude himself 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 Meetings where they move.

ORGANIZATION OF 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 Freewill Baptists, and instructed for membership in one body.

BY-LAWS

1. No conference shall be held with less than three ordained ministers and four delegates belonging to the 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 a 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. Any 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 or 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. When 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 or 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 member first named on a committee shall be its chairman to call the committees 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. L. SMITH

ARTHUR CASTEEL

J. C. RASNAKE

W. R. STALLARD

YEARLY MEETING CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

We, the members of the Freewill 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 Freewill Baptist Quarterly Meetings, conveniently located, as may embody themselves under the Constitution.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 4. Any well orgnized and well regulated Freewill Baptist Quarterly Meeting, composed of such churches as conform to the usages and adopt the doctrines of the Freewill 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.

Article 5. This Yearly Meeting shall have the power to discipline the Quarterly Meetings of which it is composed, and to exclude them for disorderly work if their labor proves unsuccessful.

Article 6. The session of this Yearly Meeting shall convene on Thursday before the second 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.

Article 7. The 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 regulations of its sessions.

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

Article 9. Each Quarterly Meeting shall send to the Yearly Meeting, with their annual letters, funds equal to ten cents (10c) per member in said Quarterly Meeting; said funds to be used in meeting expenses of the Yearly Meeting.

Article 10. The 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 alterations having been given and recorded at the next previous session.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. 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 one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom 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.—I Tim 2:5, 6; Heb. 2:9; St. John 3:16; Rev. 1:17; Acts 24:15; I 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 quickened and draweth sinners home to God.—St. John 16:7, 8; Acts 2:2; 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 moral 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 24:27; 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 brought them; because they believed not in the name of the only begotten Son of God. Unbelief, therefore, being the cause why the just and the 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; John 5:1, 10.

7. We believe that all people reaching the years of accountability

must be born again. Then by trusting His promise and keeping His commandments until the end of life, we shall be saved.—II Tim. 4:7.

8. We believe the whole Scriptures are infallibly 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 of 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 impressive of His Spirit, shall, at a future day, own their condemnation just and change themselves with their own damnation, for willfully rejecting the offers of sovereign grace.—Matt. 11:17; St. John 6:45, 65; Ps. 1:1; Tit. 2:11, 12; Jer. 12:29.

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 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 Thesa. 2:11; Rom. 2:10-21.

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 of mere choice further that 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 teaching 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 in the name of the Lord, fasting, prayer, singing the praise of God, and the public ministry of the Word, with every institution of the Lord we shall find in the New Testament.—Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:17; Acts 19:6; Luke 22:19, 20; John 13:5-7; Jas. 5:14.

17. We believe the Gospel made of baptism is by immersion, and that believers are the only subjects for baptism.—Matt. 3:16; 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 a final judgment at the last day.—John 5:28; 29; II Cor. 5:10.

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

