

ERNEST R. BOWEN
3606 WEST END AVENUE
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37205

MINUTES
OF THE
JOHN WHEELER ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

1952

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Seventy-Fourth Annual Association
CONVENED WITH
ROOTY BRANCH CHURCH, BRISTOL, TENNESSEE
THURSDAY & FRIDAY, SEPT. 4 & 5, 1952

MINUTES
OF THE
Seventy-Fourth Annual Session
OF THE
John Wheeler Association
OF
Free Will Baptists

HELD WITH
ROOTY BRANCH CHURCH
BRISTOL, TENN.

OFFICERS

Moderator.....Rev. E. F. Mitchell
Route 1, Holston, Va.
Asst. Moderator.....Rev. W. G. Henley
Box 128, Abingdon, Va.
Associational Evangelist.....Rev. Jennings Wilson
Route 1, Abingdon, Va.
Clerk & Treasurer.....Mrs. Sara B. Foran
321 Boone St., Bristol, Va.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. R. N. Waycaster, *Chm.*.....R. F. D. 4, Kingsport, Tenn.
Rev. Charlie Roark.....Box 201, Abingdon, Va.
Rev. Jennings Wilson.....R. F. D. 1, Abingdon, Va.
Rev. Scott Broyhill.....R. F. D. 1, Meadowview, Va.
Rev. R. L. Carr.....Gen. Del., Abingdon, Va.

ORDAINING COUNCIL

Consists of any three or more ministers

The next session of the John Wheeler Association will convene with Shiloh Church, Bristol, Virginia, beginning Friday before the first Sunday in September, 1953. Rev. Joe Tolliver and Rev. R. L. Carr will preach the introductory sermons.

PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

The John Wheeler Annual Association of Free Will Baptists convened with Rooty Branch Church, Bristol, Tennessee, Thursday and Friday, September 4, 5, 1952.

The conference session was called to order by the moderator at 9 a. m. Opening son: "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder." Prayer by the Assistant Moderator, Rev. W. G. Henley. Fellowship was taken. The Moderator read I Peter 2 for the Scripture lesson. Rev. E. F. Mitchell read the rules of the decorum, and made a brief talk to the body.

COMMITTEES FOR THE COMING YEAR

Executive Board: Rev. R. N. Waycaster, chm., term expires in 1953; Rev. Charles Roark, term expires 1954; Rev. Jennings Wilson, term expires 1955; Rev. Scott Broyhill, term expires 1956; Rev. W. A. Howington, term expires 1957. Rev. Howington succeeds Rev. Elmer Adkins whose term expired at this session.

Finance Committee: Rev. Joe Tolliver, chm., Sister Louise Gilbreath, Sister Constance Duncan.

Sunday School Committee: Brother Burley Frye, chm., Sisters Rosa Sherman and Jewel Sweeney.

Pulpit Committee: Brothers Mack Crowell, Clarence Stophel, and Hect Roberts.

Temperance Committee: Brothers Andy Rutherford, chm., W. B. Christian, and T. A. Ingram.

Obituary Committee: Sister Thelma Combs, chm., Rev. H. M. Whittaker, and A. L. Pope.

Rev. H. R. House made an interesting talk. Sister Sylvia Catlett and Brother Bill Skeens also made brief talks.

Pulpit Committee reports: that this conference adjourn at eleven o'clock for preaching service, to reconvene at 1:30 p. m. Brothers Preston Roark and Bill Howington bring the message at 3 p. m., and that Brother Dan Jackson and Sister Louise Gilreath preach Friday morning at the eleven o'clock service.

Brother Elmer Adkins was chosen to preach the introductory sermon in the absence of Brother Douglas Offield.

Conference adjourned for eleven o'clock service to reconvene at 1:30 p. m.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Opened by singing "It Won't Be Long." Prayer by Brother Andy Rutherford. Brother Elmer Adkins read for the Scripture lesson II Timothy 3 and brought the message followed by Rev. Andy Rutherford, taking as a subject, "The Second Coming of Jesus Christ." This interesting message was enjoyed by all. Closing song: "I'll Fly Away."

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The Conference opened at 1:30 p. m. by singing, "Some Day." Opening

prayer by Rev. R. L. Carr. The meeting was called to order by the assistant moderator, Rev. W. G. Henley who read for the Scripture lesson Matthew 5, and made some interesting comments.

Reports received and adopted will be found elsewhere in this volume.

DELEGATES ENROLLED

Rooty Branch Church: Brother and Sister Mack Crowell, Grady White, Sister Hubert Reunion, Brothers H. J. Roberts, Jim Shaver, Dave Denton, Orville Shaver, W. D. Cardwell, Clarence Stophel, and Sisters Sylvia Catlett and Willie Vanover.

West Bristol Church: Sisters Constance Duncan, Jewel Sweeney, Rosa Sherman, Brother and Sister John Newman, and Brothers Burley Frye and Winston Sweeney.

East Bristol Church: Rev. Charles Richards, Brother and Sister W. A. Skeens, Brother and Sister C. C. Wright, Brothers Robert Carr, Edward Pendergrass, W. G. Henley, Elmer Adkins.

Cedar Bluff Church: None.

Mt. Olivet Church: None.

Graggs Chapel Church: None.

Pine View Church: Revs. Andy Rutherford, David Martin, Jr., Sister David Martin, Jr.

Shiloh Church: Sisters Louise Gilreath, Mary Cantrell, Lillian Hanger, Novella Blaylock, Rev. Joe Tolliver, Dan Jackson.

Pine Hill Church: Sisters Stella Worley, Ruth Pippin, Charmie Bowman, and Brother Hubert Adams.

Free Zion Church: Brothers Preston Roark, Preston Otley, Charles Roark and Sisters Mabel Otey, and Kathaleen Morrison.

Greenwood Church: Sisters Clara Blevins, Myrtle Parks, Verlie Price, and Brothers Burg Baumgardner, Clarence Parks, Ray Blevins, Frank Wright.

New Bethel Church: Brother Frank Quesenberry.

Spoon Gap Church: Brother Carl Roark and Sisters Hazel Price and Bertha Graybeal.

Friendship Church: Sisters Meriah Gross and Della Gross.

Visitors Enrolled: Brother and Sister Counts, Holston, Virginia; Sister Thelma Skeens, Bristol, Virginia; Brother and Sister A. L. Fields, Holston, Virginia; Sisters Calvin Pickle and Hazel Lyles, 1201 West Cedar St., Bristol, Tennessee; Brother Carl Roark, Abingdon, Virginia; Mrs. S. B. Taylor, Route 2, Johnson City, Tenn.

Visiting Ministers: Rev. R. J. Morrell, Toe River Association, Rev. C. A. Hawks, 8421 North Edison Avenue, Tampa, Florida; Rev. Silas Goodman, Union Association.

Conference adjourned at 3 p. m. for afternoon preaching service.

3 P. M. SERVICE

Brother Preston followed by Brother W. A. Howington brought the message.

FRIDAY ~~AFTERNOON~~ ^{MORNING} SESSION

Opened by singing, "I'll Be Listening." Prayer by Sister Della Gross, Scripture read by W. G. Henley, Revelation 22.

The conference was then declared in order by the moderator.

Rev. C. A. Hawks made an interesting talk, and motion was made that he be received back into the association.

Church letters were read and adopted. The letters will be found in the close of this minute.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AS FOLLOWS:

Sunday School Committee Officers Report: That all the teachers should be consecrated Christians and able to teach the youth in the way of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that each class should have prayer offered during the class. Ministers should not be superintendents of schools as they should be free to preach the gospel to a lost and dying people

Temperance Committee: We agree that we should be temperate in all things and stress total abstinence from all intoxicating beverages, motion picture shows, ball games, worldliness, and fleshly lusts.

Pulpit Committee Report: We ask that Brother Jennings Wilson followed by Brother Douglas Offield bring the closing message on Friday afternoon.

Obituary Committee Report: Shiloh Church—N. W. White; West Bristol Church—Sister Betty Odle died Dec. 13, 1951; Greenwood Church—Mrs. Ella Nelson died Dec. 13, 1951; Mrs. Eastern Brannan died Dec. 6, 1951; Sister Loura Nelson. Free Zion Church—Rev. E. T. Tolliver, born Nov. 1, 1868, died April 13, 1952, at the age of 83. East Bristol Church—Ike Huitt, Jake Quesenberry. Rooty Branch Church—Bob Boling, John Shaffer, Mrs. Robertson.

Executive Committee: We have agreed and request that the Yearly Association be set for Friday and Saturday leaving off Thursday as has been the custom. We request that Brother George Newman be granted his request for a letter of dismission. We also request that Brother H. H. Daniel be granted a letter of dismission according to his request. We agree that Brother Palmer Graybeal should be dismissed from the association for failure to attend the meetings.

We request that the next quarterly meeting convene with East Bristol Church, and that Brother Charles Richards and Brother David Martin preach the introductory sermon.

We request that the next annual association convene with Shiloh Church on Friday and Saturday before the first Sunday in September, 1953, and that Brothers Joe Tolliver and E. A. Wagner preach the introductory sermon.

BUSINESS PROCEEDINGS

Brother R. N. Waycaster made an announcement for the Virginia State Association. He said that the fee for that meeting had been raised to fifty dollars rather than the twenty-five dollars which has been the custom. He also asked that all donations of any kind be sent to the Virginia State Association Clerk so that our state of Virginia can get credit for it and our individual associations can be recognized.

Motion carried that Brother Waycaster be appointed to visit the churches and explain these announcements.

Report of the clerk and treasurer was read and adopted as follows:

Clerk Reports to August 28, 1952:

Receipts

Carried Forward	\$129.70
Quarterly Conference, Dec. 1, 1951	50.65
Quarterly Conference, March 1, 1952	55.83
Quarterly Conference, May 31, 1952	66.50

Total	\$302.68
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Disbursements

Moderator	\$ 20.00
Supplies	4.00
Virginia State Association	25.00
Treatises and Blanks	8.00
Minutes	68.67
Clerk and Treasurer	25.00

Total Disbursements	\$150.67
Balance in Treasury	\$152.01
Aged Ministers Fund	69.36

Grand Total	\$221.37
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Receipts from Churches

Donations	\$ 28.00
Treatises Sold	1.00
Total Received	68.80
Carried Forward	152.01

Total in Treasury	\$220.81
Aged Ministers Fund	69.36

Sister L. F. Henley made a very touching talk on the "Goodness and Miracles of God."

Motion carried that this conference adjourn for eleven o'clock preaching service, to reconvene at 1:30 p. m.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Opened by singing, "Showers of Blessings." Brother Dan Jackson read Amos 2, and brought the message. He was followed by Sister Louise Gilreath. The closing prayer was offered by Rev. C. A. Hawks.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened at 1:30 p. m. by singing "Just Over in the Glory Land." Prayer was offered by Brother Waycaster. Rev. Mitchell, the moderator, read Acts 8, and then declared the body in order for business.

Received at this time a letter from Heavenly Rest Church appealing to the Association to be recognized and accepted back into the Association.

Motion was carried that a Council be sent to reorganize the church. The Council appointed is as follows: Rev. W. A. Howington, chm., Rev. Dan Jackson, Rev. Douglas Offield.

Motion carried that Pine Hill Church be accepted in the Association.

Motion carried that Brother E. F. Mitchell be elected moderator for the next three years and Brother Elmer Adkins assistant moderator. By vote Sister Sara B. Foran was retained as clerk and treasurer for the next three years.

By vote Brother Palmer Graybeal was dismissed from the association because of failure to attend conferences.

Brothers George Newman and Hubert H. Daniel were granted their request for a letter of dismission from the association.

Three deacons were ordained for the Rooty Branch Church at this conference: Clifton Vanover, Burtice White, Clarence Stophel.

Brothers Douglas Offield and Dan Jackson were ordained by the laying on of hands and prayer. The Ordaining Council for this meeting were: Revs. R. N. Waycaster, W. A. Howington, Jennings Wilson, Elmer Adkins, Robert Carr, Claude Lethcoe, and E. F. Mitchell.

A solo entitled, "I Am a Little Soldier" and dedicated to the aged ministers of the cross was sung by Rev. R. N. Waycaster.

Motion carried that this conference adjourn until we meet in the quarterly conference which convenes with East Bristol Church, Saturday before the first Sunday in December, 1952.

Rev. Douglas Offield and Jennings Wilson brought the closing messages.

CHURCH LETTERS

Greenwood Church: To the John Wheeler Association when convened with Rooty Branch Church, September 4, 5, 1952. We send as delegates: Rhea Blevins, chm., Clyde Hillard, Clara Blevins. The condition of our church is good. Enclosed for finance \$5.00. Rev. Silas Goodman elected pastor for the coming year. This done by order of the church while in conference, August 23, 1952.

Rev. Elmer Adkins, *Moderator*

Eulala Baumgardner, *Clerk*

Pine View Church: To the John Wheeler Association when convened with Rooty Branch Church, September 4, 5, 1952. We send as delegates: A. E. Gentry, W. B. Christian, David Martin, Andy Rutherford, Carrie Gentry, Christine Martin, Martha Rutherford. The condition of our church is good. Members received—2. Members dismissed—4. Total Membership—15. Prayer meeting—fair. Sunday School—fair. Sunday School average attendance—26. Officers—2. Teachers—3. Number Bible chapters read per week—37. Paid pastor—\$95.00. Evangelist—\$19.10. F. W. B. Orphanage—\$46.12. Building Repairs—\$149.94. Lights and fuel—\$24.39. Sunday School Literature—\$14.98. Flowers for the sick—\$7.65. Quarterly Conference and Association—\$20.00. Offering enclosed—\$5.00. Pastor elected for the forthcoming year—Rev. Ernest Carmichael, Kingsport, Tennessee. Done by order of conference, August 22, 1952.

A. E. Gentry, *Moderator*

Martha Rutherford, *Clerk*

Shiloh Church: To the John Wheeler Association when convened with Rooty Branch, September 4, 5, 1952. We send as delegates: Lillian Hanger, Maxiere Murray, Mary Lou Helbert, Frances Malcolm, Novella Blaylock. The condition of our church is good. We also have a good Sunday School with an enrollment of 141, and a Wednesday night prayer meeting. Offering enclosed—\$5.00. Done by order of the church while in conference, August 4, 1952.

Rev. J. W. Chestnutt, *Pastor*

Blanche Blaylock, *Clerk*

Graggs Chapel: To the John Wheeler Association while convened with Rooty Branch Church. The condition of our church is good. We have a good prayer meeting. Number of officers and deacons—5. Paid evangelist—\$47.75. Paid pastor—\$39.82. Total membership—17. Pastor for the coming year—Rev. H. H. Daniels, Telford, Tennessee.

Nora Bacon, *Clerk*

Spoon Gap: To the John Wheeler Association when convened with Rooty Branch Church, September 4, 5, 1952. We send as delegates: Hazel Price, chm., Bertha Graybeal, Belle Roark. The condition of our church is good. We have a good Sunday School and prayer meeting. Number members received—13. Number members dismissed—5. Deacons: Glenith Price, Roosevelt Price, Dewey Price. Done by order of the church while in conference, August 2, 1952.

C. C. Norris, *Moderator*

Hazel Price, *Clerk*

Friendship Church No. 1: To the John Wheeler Association when convened at the Rooty Branch Church, September 4, 5, 1952. We send as delegates: Howard Cross, Ralph Rogers, Andy Roark. Our church is in good condition. We have a good Sunday School and prayer meeting. Members received—7. Pastor for the coming year is Rev. Bob Morrell, Bluff City, Tennessee, Route 3.

Cora Clark, *Clerk*

Mt. Olivet Church: To the John Wheeler Association when convened with Rooty Branch Church, September 4, 5, 1952. We send as delegates: H. C. Blivins, Frankie Trivette, Nannie Roark, and Ethel Mabe. We have a good Sunday School and Prayer meeting. No. conversions—5. Received into the church—1. Donations to the Orphanage—\$10.50. Paid evangelist—\$75.35. Paid pastor—\$123.66. Offering enclosed—\$3.00. Pastor for the coming year—Rev. John Vanney. Done by order of the church while in conference, August 9, 1952.

Charles Richardson, *Moderator*

Ethel Mabe, *Clerk*

West Bristol Church: To the John Wheeler Association when convened with Rooty Branch Church, September 4, 5, 1952. We send as delegates: Rosa Sherman, Constance Duncan, Jewel Sweeney. Our church is in good condition with a good Sunday School and prayer meeting. No. officers and teachers—10. Members received—7. Members dismissed—6. Members deceased—2. No. active members—32. Number inactive members—29. Paid evangelist—\$154.68. Paid to Orphanage—\$126.56. For building and repairs—\$121.43. Paid pastor—\$443.68. Offering enclosed—\$5.00. Pastor for the coming year—Rev. Winston Sweeney.

Ministers holding membership with us: E. F. Mitchell—Holston, Virginia; A. L. Prater—Bristol, Tennessee; A. L. Pope—Abingdon, Virginia; E. A. Wagner—Bristol, Tennessee; Thelma Combs—Bristol, Tennessee; R. N. Waycaster—Kingsport, Tennessee; Winston Sweeney—Bristol, Tennessee.

Deacons: John Newman, Howard Miller, Wilber Miller, Wilmer Mitchell, Charles Cornelius, Howard Hobson, Bevely Shoemaker.

Done by order of the church while in conference, August 23, 1952.

R. N. Waycaster, *Moderator*

Snowy Hobson, *Clerk*

Rooty Branch Church: To the John Wheeler Association when convened with Rooty Branch Church, September 4, 5, 1952. We send as delegates: Avery Seats, Hecht Roberts, William Cardwell, James Shaver, David Denton, Mack Galliher, Mae Seats, Martha Garland, Rosa Runion, and Susie Johnson. Our church is in good condition. Members received—55. Members dismissed—1. Members deceased—6. Total Membership—170. We have a good prayer meeting and Sunday School with an average attendance of 138. No. officers—8, teachers—5. Paid to Home Missions—\$51.82. Paid Pastor—\$1200.00. Pastor for the forthcoming year—W. A. Howington, assistant pastor—Elmer Adkins. Offering enclosed—\$5.00. Done by order of the church while in conference, August 23, 1952.

W. A. Howington, *Moderator*

Birchie Stophel, *Clerk*

Pine Hill Church: To the John Wheeler Association. We send as delegates: Herbert Adams, Elizabeth Worley, Charmie Bowman, Stella Worley, Lois Lethcoe. The condition of our church is good. We have a good Sunday School. No. members—17. Our Sunday School enrollment is 45 with an average attendance of 35. Our church was organized July 27, 1952, by Rev. E. F. Mitchell, Jennings Wilson, and Claude Lethcoe. Pastor for the coming year—Rev. Claude Lethcoe. Done by order of the church while in conference, July 27, 1952.

Claud Lethcoe, *Moderator*

Charmie Bowman, *Clerk*

Free Zion Church: To the John Wheeler Association. We send as delegates: Rilda Blackwell, Flossie Bailey, Preston Otey, Cam Miller.

Rev. Scott Broyhill, *Pastor*

Sister Kathleen Morrison, *Clerk*

East Bristol Church: To the John Wheeler Association when convened with Rooty Branch Church, September 4, 5, 1952. We send as delegates: C. C. and Bertha Wright, Rev. Robert Carr, Edgar and Mattie Pendergrass. Our church is in good condition. We have 14 resident members, and 3 non-resident members. Our total membership is 17. We have a good prayer meeting. Also, we have a Sunday School with an average number of pupils being 40, officers 4. The value of our church property is \$5400. Offering enclosed—\$5.00. Pastor for the coming year—Rev. Robert Carr, Abingdon, Virginia.

Ministers holding membership with us: W. G. Henley—Box 128, Abingdon, Virginia; Elmer Adkins—Indian Springs, Tennessee; Robert Carr—Abingdon, Va.

Deacons: C. C. Wright, chm., Edgar Pendergrass, Bill Skeens.

Done by order of the church while in conference, August 17, 1952.

Rev. Robert Carr, *Moderator*

Bertha Wright, *Clerk*

East Bristol Church: To the John Wheeler Association. This certifies that Edd

Pendergrass is a member of this church in good standing, and as such we hereby recommend him to this association for license to preach the gospel for one year. Done by order of the church while in conference, August 17, 1952.

Rev. Robert Carr, *Moderator*

Bertha Wright, *Clerk*

MINISTERS' REPORTS

W. A. Skeens: Churches pastored—none; conversions witnessed—several; assisted in baptizing—6; assisted in funerals—1; sermons preached—many; conducted prayer meetings—18; offering enclosed—\$1.00.

J. W. Chestnutt: Sorry that I can not be with you in the association due to the condition of our work which is beyond my control. Churches pastored—1; baptized—12; received—\$405.64.

E. F. Mitchell: Revivals conducted—3; conversions witnessed—72; baptized—1; churches organized—1; marriages performed—13; funerals conducted—25; sick visits—many; sermons preached—1009; all day services conducted—4; Moderator for quarterly meetings—3; moderator yearly meetings—1; miles traveled—many; moderator ministers' conference—1; money received—\$600.13.

Andy Rutherford: Sermons preached—several; revivals assisted—2; conversions witnessed—17; revivals attended—several; baptized—2; miles traveled—many; prayer meetings conducted—many; money received—\$40.00; offering enclosed—\$1.00.

A. L. Prator: I have preached several sermons, conducted several prayer meetings, made many sick visits; but have not kept a record.

W. G. Henley: Sermons preached—16; funerals conducted—7; marriages performed—8; revivals conducted—1; conversions witnessed—many; sick visits—many; money received—\$37.25.

Elmer Adkins: Churches pastored—3; sermons preached—140; prayer meetings conducted—several; conversions witnessed—75; sick visits—many; revivals conducted—4; money received—\$500.00.

E. A. Wagner: Sermons preached—57; funerals conducted—3; prayer services—several; sick visits—several; conversions witnessed—several; marriages performed—15; money received—\$75.00.

H. M. Whitaker: Churches pastored—1; revivals conducted—1; sermons preached—many; funerals conducted—2; money received—\$55.45; offering enclosed—\$1.00.

Preston Roark: Sermons preached—many; revivals conducted—3; prayer meetings conducted—several; conversions witnessed—41; sick visits—several.

Virginia Brannan: Sermons preached—several; prayer meetings—several; sick visits—several; revivals—3; conversions witnessed—50.

R. N. Waycaster: Churches pastored—1; revivals conducted—1; conversions witnessed—15; miles traveled—many; money received—\$200.00.

W. A. Howington: Churches pastored—1; revivals conducted—6; marriages performed—6; funerals conducted—15; conversions witnessed—several; sick visits—many; baptized—40; miles traveled—many; money received—\$1,857.75.

David A. Martin, Jr.: Sermons preached—many; revivals attended—several; sick visits—several; miles traveled—many; offering enclosed—\$1.00.

Dan Jackson: Sermons preached—55; conversions witnessed—193; assisted in baptizing—117; miles traveled—many; money received—\$208.23; offering enclosed—\$1.00.

Claude Lethcoe: Sermons preached—several; revivals assisted—several; prayer services conducted—many; conversions witnessed—32; conducted revivals—1; baptized—7.

H. H. Daniels: Churches pastored—1; sermons preached—66; homes visited—many; conversions witnessed—52; prayer meetings—several; funerals conducted—1; miles traveled—many; money received—\$53.56.

Jennings Wilson [EVANGELIST]: Revivals conducted—9; conversions witnessed—222; baptized—115; marriages performed—6; funerals conducted—12; money received—\$1,734.50.

Louise Gilreath: Sermons preached—95; conversions witnessed—52; revivals conducted—3; Sunday Schools organized—1; prayer meetings conducted—several; sick visits—many; singing appointments—24; assisted in baptizing—2; money received—\$248.75.

Robert L. Carr: Churches pastored—1; revivals conducted—1; conversions witnessed—several; baptized—5; funerals conducted—1; prayer meetings—several; sermons preached—75; sick visits—several; miles traveled—many; money received—\$150.00.

Winston Sweeney: Sermons preached—151; conversions witnessed—40; baptized—5; have a radio broadcast; have labored at New Bethel with the assistance of Brother Dan Jackson and the Gilreath evangelistic party; miles traveled—many; money received—\$264.10.

T. A. Ingram: Sermons preached—25; conversions witnessed—several; miles traveled—many; money received—\$8.00.

Lula F. Henley: Sermons preached—several; conversions witnessed—several; sick visits—several; assisted in revivals—several; miles traveled—many.

Ministers in roll as they received their annual cards:

Ordained Ministers:

E. F. Mitchell—Holston, Va., RFD 1
H. M. Whitaker—Bristol, Va., RFD 2
H. R. Rouse—Bristol, Va., RFD 4
R. F. Carr—Abingdon, Va., Gen. Del.
Elmer Adkins—Indian Springs, Tenn.
W. G. Henley—Abingdon, Va., Box 128
Lula Henley—Abingdon, Va., Box 128; phone 2595
R. N. Waycaster—Kingsport, Tenn., RFD 4
Dewey Foran—Abingdon, Va., RFD 2
Albert Prator—Bristol, Tenn., 660½ 6th St.
E. A. Wagner—Bristol, Tenn., 146 Lee Hgy.
J. W. Chesnutt—Bristol, Va., 520 Page St.
Charles Roark—Abingdon, Va., Box 102
C. C. Norris—Abingdon, Va., RFD 1
W. A. Howingdon—Bristol, Tenn., RFD 3
Joe E. Tolliver—Bristol, Tenn., RFD 2

Amos L. Pope—Abingdon, Va., RFD 1
Preston Roark—Abingdon, Va., RFD 1
Jennings Wilson—Abingdon, Va., RFD 1
Thelma Combs—Bristol, Tenn., Shelby St.
Virginia Brannan—Bristol, Va., Texas Ave.
W. S. Broyhill—Meadow View, Va.
Parley Bryant—Itmann, W. Va.
Andy Rutherford—Kingsport, Tenn., Box 127, RFD 2
Claude Lethcoe—Glade Springs, Va.
Demple Jones—Bristol, Tenn., 1115 Cedar St.
Louise Gilreath—Bristol, Tenn., RFD 1
Charles Richards—Laurel Bloomery, Tenn.
John Vonnoy—Glade Springs, Va.
C. A. Hawks—Tampa, Fla., 8421 N. Edison Ave.
Dan Jackson—Abingdon, Va., RFD 2
Douglas Offield—Bristol, Tenn., RFD 1
David A. Martin, Jr.—Kingsport, Tenn., RFD 7, Box 72-R
W. A. Keens—Bristol, Va.

Licentiates:

Edd Pendergrass—Bristol, Tenn., RFD 1, Box 479
George Shepherd—Fordtown, Tenn.
T. A. Ingram—Holston, Va.
Winston Sweeney—Bristol, Tenn., 1106 Southside Ave.
Sylvia Catlett—Bristol, Tenn., RFD 4
Mable Otey—Abingdon, Va., RFD 1
Johnny Wolfe—Glade Springs, Va., RFD 2, Box 95
Cecil Clifton—Holston, Va., RFD 1
Wilma Baumgardner—Alvarado, Va., RFD 1

Deceased Ministers:

Rev. E. T. Tolliver—Bristol, Va., 321 Boone St.

Dismissed Ministers:

Palmer Graybeal—Abingdon, Va., RFD 1
George Newman—Bristol, Tenn., RFD 2
H. H. Daniels—Telford, Tenn.
Dewey Quailes—114 East State St., Bristol, Tenn.
Aileen Quailes—Bristol, Tenn., 114 East State St.
J. W. White—Jonesboro, Tenn.

We, the delegates of the represented classes, and visiting Brothers and Sisters, offer our sincere and heart-felt thanks to the people of Rooty Branch Church and community for their kind hospitality to us during our stay in their midst.

Respectfully submitted,
E. F. Mitchell, *Moderator*
Sara B. Foran, *Clerk*

I, Sara B. Foran, clerk and treasurer of the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptists, do hereby certify that these minutes are here reproduced correctly

to the best of my knowledge and ability with such corrections and revisions as were permitted me by the Association.

Sara B. Foran, *Clerk*

THE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

The ministers' conference met with East Bristol Church, Saturday, June 21, 1952, at 9 a. m. The opening song was "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder." Sister Virginia Brannan offered prayer. Rev. Mitchell, the moderator, read Matthew 25.

The conference was then called to order by the moderator. Fellowship was taken and all were in fellowship. Open confessions were made by several of the brethren.

Executive Board serving: Rev. Elmer Adkins, Rev. Charles Roark, Rev. Jennings Wilson, Rev. Scott Broyhill, and Rev. Andy Rutherford.

At this time the body enjoyed an address by the chairman of the board.

The committee reports that Brothers Everett Dollar and John Vanney bring the morning message.

The committee reports that they agree for Brothers W. G. Henley and Scott Broyhill to go to Spoon Gap and start a revival and try to get the church in order.

Conference adjourned until we meet in the yearly association in September.

MORNING PREACHING SERVICE

Opened by singing, "Amazing Grace." Brother John Vonnoy read I John 3 and brought the message followed by Brother Everett Dollar. The subject was "Be Instant in Season and Out of Season."

Closing prayer by Brother Elmer Adkins.

YEARLY MEETING OR ANNUAL ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

Article 1. This Yearly Meeting or Association shall be called the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptists, 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.

Article 2. The Conference of this Yearly Meeting or Association shall consist of delegates from the several Quarterly Meetings of which it is composed, every Quarterly Meeting being entitled to one delegate, every Quarterly Meeting containing five hundred members to two delegates, and one additional delegate for every additional five hundred members.

Article 3. The officers of this Yearly Meeting or Association shall be a standing clerk and treasurer and a moderator who shall be chosen at every session of the Yearly Meeting or Association, with assistants as may be found necessary.

Article 4. Any well-organized and well-regulated Free Will Baptist Quarterly Meeting, composed of such churches as conform to the practices, and adopt the doctrines of the Free Will Baptist denomination, as published in the Treatise of their faith, and in the Minutes of the National Association, and are in favor of all

the benevolent enterprises of the denomination, may at any time, on application, by vote of this body, become a member thereof.

Article 5. This Yearly Meeting or Association shall have power to discipline the Quarterly Meetings of which it is composed, and to exclude them for disorderly walk, if labor proves unsuccessful but in no case to reverse their decisions, nor to interfere with any of their internal regulations.

Article 6. The sessions of this Yearly Meeting or Association shall be held on....., at which time it shall be the duty of the Quarterly Meetings of which this Yearly Meeting or Association is composed to represent themselves by letter and delegates, and report their standing, prospects, and statistics; at which time the Association shall act upon 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 to the practices of the denomination, as in its judgment may promote the cause of Christ and the interests of the churches and Quarterly Meetings, within the limits of this Yearly Meeting or Association.

Article 7. This Yearly Meeting or Association shall have power to adopt any regulations or by-laws, not inconsistent with this Constitution, which may be deemed essential to the further regulation of its sessions.

Article 8. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of the Yearly Meeting or Association at any regular session, notice of such intended alteration having been given in writing, and recorded at the next previous session.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. *The Bible.* The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. *God.* There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe; and in the Scriptures as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, and obey.

3. *Christ.* Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever present Savior and Lord.

4. *The Holy Spirit.* The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God.

5. *The Government of God.* God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of men requires.

6. *The Sinfulness of Man.* Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God.

7. *The Work of Christ.* The Son of God by His incarnation, life, sufferings,

death and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. *The Terms of Salvation.* The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Saviour and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

9. *Election.* God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.

10. *Free dom of the Will.* The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish.

11. *Salvation Free.* God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.

12. *Perseverance.* All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.

13. *Gospel Ordinances.* BAPTISM, or the immersion of believers in water, and the LORD'S SUPPER, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel; FEET WASHING, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be ministered to all true believers.

14. *Tithing.* God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ indorsed it in the Gospel [Matt. 23:23], and the apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him" (1 Cor. 16:2).

15. *The Christian Sabbath.* The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.

16. *Resurrection, Judgment and Final Retribution.* The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-

denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences; public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able to promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of Missions, the success of Sunday schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the World. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

