

MINUTES

of the

JOHN WHEELER ASSOCIATION

of

Free Will Baptists

1971

Proceedings

of the

NINETY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

convened with

East Bristol Church

Bristol, Tennessee

Saturday, October 2, 1971

MINUTES
of the
JOHN WHEELER ASSOCIATION
of
Free Will Baptists

Held With the
EAST BRISTOL CHURCH
Bristol, Tennessee

**The next session will convene with the Heavenly Rest Church, Saturday
before the first Sunday in October 1972.**

OFFICERS

Moderator: Rev. C. F. Sprinkle, Route 5, Abingdon, Virginia

Clerk: Mrs. M. C. Foran, 321 Boone Street, Bristol, Virginia

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. John Taylor Route 1, Saltville, Virginia

Rev. Kenneth Shaffer

Rev. Harold Rouse 5 Birch Street, Bristol, Tennessee

Rev. Kyle French P. O. Box 87, Chilhowie, Virginia

Rev. Howard Campbell Route 4, Bristol, Tennessee

HOME MISSION BOARD

Rev. Walter Statzer P. O. Box 873, Marion, Virginia

SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK SHOP

Mrs. Claude Cardwell Box 88, Route 2, Saltville, Virginia

TRUSTEES

Rev. Walter Statzer P. O. Box 873, Marion, Virginia

Rev. Kyle French P. O. Box 88, Chilhowie, Virginia

Rev. C. F. Sprinkle Route 5, Bristol, Virginia

PROCEEDINGS

The John Wheeler Ninety-Third Annual Association of Free Will Baptist convened with the East Bristol Church, Bristol, Tennessee, Saturday, October 2, 1971.

The meeting began with the singing of song, *Some Day*.

The clerk, Mrs. M. C. Foran brought the devotional reading seven verses from the twelfth chapter of Hebrews.

Prayer was offered by the Rev. Walter Statzer.

Rev. Statzer was elected Moderator to serve in the absence of the moderator Rev. Arthur Rhymer.

Fellowship was taken. All were in fellowship.

Motion was carried to enter into business session.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by the clerk.

COMMITTEES

Executive Board: Rev. John Taylor, Rev. Kenneth Shaffer, Rev. Harold Rouse, Rev. Kyle French, and Rev. Howard Campbelle.

Sunday School Committee: Mrs. Claude Cardwell.

Home Mission: Rev. Walter Statzer.

The reports from the Quarterly meetings were read and received as read.

The buying of the camp property of the Fleenor land in Poor Valley was cancelled, by vote of the Association.

Motion was made and carried that the trustees serve at the pleasure of the association.

Motion was made and carried to have a youth rally when the annual association convenes again. It will be held at the Greenwood Church, Alvarado, Virginia. Rev. and Mrs. Walter Statzer will have charge of the meeting.

Motion was made and carried to adjourn for the eleven o'clock preaching service. Closed with prayer by the Rev. Dewey Foran.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Opened by singing *Glory Land Way*. Rev. J. W. Chesnutt brought the message reading from the 14th Psalm. The subject, "Is Our God Dead?" Closed with prayer by Rev. Johnny Hooker.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Began with the Epperson Trio singing special numbers. Rev. Harold Rouse made prayer.

The finance received today was in the amount of \$151.97

The conference stood in reverence prayer in memorial to the deceased ministers and members since our last association.

THE REPORTS OF THE BOARD

We, the executive board, recommend that due to the circumstances the project for buying the Fleenor land in Poor Valley for a Bible Camp be cancelled.

We, recommend that the cards of all the ministers be held who do not submit their reports to be passed on by the conference and their cards be given to the Quarterly clerk who will notify them by letter to report to their next Quarterly Meeting in person with their report to be passed on by the body unless providentially hindered by sickness, or death. Then if they do not report then give the clerk authority to call for their credentials.

We, recommend that the next Annual Association convene with the Heavenly Rest Church, Greendale, Virginia.

We, recommend that Rev. C. F. Sprinkle be elected moderator for the next Yearly meeting.

We, recommend that Rev. Samuel Johnson be chosen to bring the message at eleven o'clock service.

We, recommend Rev. Howard Campbelle be elected to the board, to serve for the next five years.

DELEGATES ELECTED

To go to the Virginia State Association when it convenes Friday before the third Sunday in June 1972 with the Fairmount Park Church, Norfolk, Virginia. They are as follows: Mrs. Claude Cardwell, chairman; Mrs. M. C. Foran, Mrs. Bill Ashbrook, Mrs. Walter Statzer, Mr. Bill Ashbrook and Mrs. Violet Pressley.

Terms of the executive board expire as follows:

Rev. John Taylor, October 1972; Rev. Kenneth Shaffer, October 1973; Rev. Harold Rouse, 1974; Rev. Kyle French, October 1975, Rev. Howard Campbelle, 1976.

Delegates were enrolled:

Northeastern Quarterly — Sister Loretta Johnson, Sister Lottie Cardwell, and Brother Milford Warren.

Southwestern Quarterly — Brother Bill Sykes, Brother Kenneth Shaffer:

THE OBITUARY REPORT

Brother Eden Marshall
Brother Will Hughes

Brother Malcolm C. Foran, 67, expired April 5, 1971
 Sister Gracie Helbert, 64, expired August 13, 1971
 Sister Celia Jane Rouse, 82, expired April 20, 1971

REPORTS FROM THE QUARTERLY MEETINGS

Northeastern Quarterly

State of Religion	good
Members received	12
Dismissed	3
Died	4
Total Membership	476
Condition prayer meeting	good
Condition Sunday School	good
Number pupils	340
Number Ministers	15
Finances:	
Paid pastors	\$8,602.04
Paid Evangelist	2,151.44
Home Mission	236.88
Foreign Mission	236.88
Building and repairs	661.49
For orphanage	290.20
Enclosed for minutes	70.00

Southwestern Quarterly

Statistics:

State of Religion	good
Members received	46
Baptized	45
Dismissed	10
Died	6
Total Membership	536
Condition of prayer meeting	good
Condition of Sunday School	good
Number of pupils	495
Number of officers	36
Number Teachers	51

Finances:

Paid pastors	\$5,670.43
Paid Evangelist	1,725.10
Home Mission	593.73
Foreign Mission	93.80
Building and repairs	3,136.25
For Education	829.57
For Publication	146.08
Enclosed for minutes	70.00
Miscellaneous	3,539.00

Children's Home	427.05
Total	16,231.01

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Cash on hand October 3, 1970	\$ 50.63
Received at the Annual Association	178.00
Total to account for	228.63
Disbursements:	
Minutes printed	\$ 78.00
Virginia State Association	50.00
Clerk & Treasurer	25.00
Mailing cards	2.00
Total	155.00
Balance	73.63
Money for camp property	55.00
Total	128.63

MINISTERS BELONGING TO THE JOHN WHEELER ASSOCIATION

Rev. Jennings Wilson	1602A Westover Drive, Danville
Rev. Robert Smith	Route 4, Bristol, Tennessee
Rev. Walter Statzer	P. O. Box 873, Marion, Virginia 24354
Rev. Douglas Offield	Route 4, Bristol, Tennessee 37620
Rev. Howard Shaver	Route 5, Bristol, Tennessee 37620
Rev. Edward Pendergrass	Route 3, Bristol, Tennessee 37620
Rev. Herbert Adams	Route 4, Bristol, Virginia
Rev. C. C. Olinger	P. O. Box, Saltville, Virginia
Rev. Orville Trivette	Route 4, Bristol, Tennessee
Rev. Samuel Johnson	Glade Springs, Virginia
Rev. Joe E. Tolliver	Route 2, Bristol, Tennessee
Rev. Arthur Rhymer	Route 4, Bristol, Tennessee
Rev. C. F. Sprinkle	Route 5, Bristol, Virginia
Rev. Kyle French	P. O. Box 87, Chilhowie, Virginia
Rev. J. W. Chessnutt	520 Page Street, Bristol, Virginia
Rev. Shelton Norris	Box 3078, Bristol, Tennessee
Rev. Winton Blaylock	Route 4, Bristol, Virginia
Rev. Lula F. Henley	264 Lowland Street, Abingdon, Virginia
Rev. Virginia Brannan	1813 King Mill Pike, Bristol, Virginia
Rev. H. M. Whittaker	3354 Chainbridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia
Rev. Elmer Adkins	Route 4, Blountville, Tennessee
Rev. John Taylor	Route 1, Saltville, Virginia
Rev. Homer Goodson	Route 5, Bristol, Virginia
Rev. Cecil Pressley	Box 337, Saltville, Virginia
Rev. Orville O'Quinn	Box 228 Crockett Street, Bristol
Rev. Harold Rouse	No. 5 Birch Street, Bristol, Tennessee

Rev. Dewey Foran Route 5, Bristol, Virginia
 Rev. John Hooker Route 1, Blountville, Tennessee
 Rev. Rhea Willis Route 2, Bristol, Tennessee
 Rev. Paul Price 704 Mosby Street, Abingdon, Virginia
 Rev. James M. Wright Saltville, Virginia
 Rev. Robert Prater, Jr. Box 197, Saltville, Virginia
 Rev. Robert Teaster 204 Delaney Street, Bristol, Tennessee
 Rev. Howard Campbelle Route 4, Bristol, Tennessee
 Rev. Paul Rouse

Motion was made and carried to accept the recommendation of the Board to have the next yearly meeting at the Heavenly Rest Church, Greendale, Virginia.

Brother C. F. Sprinkle was chosen for moderator, and Brother Samuel Johnson will bring the message at the eleven o'clock service.

Motion was made and carried to adjourn for one year. The session was closed with prayer by Rev. Homer Goodson.

We, the delegates of the represented classes and visiting brothers and sisters, offer our sincere and heartfelt thanks to the East Bristol Church and community, and for their kind hospitality shown us during our stay in their locality.

Rev. Walter Statzer, Moderator
 Mrs. M. C. Foran, Clerk

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK SHOP

Met with the East Bristol Church Thursday, September 30, 1971, 7:30 p.m. The meeting opened with song and prayer. Sister Lottie Cardwell was in charge of the program.

Sister Walter Statzer taught the object lesson — subject "How Great a Fire" taken from the third chapter of James. Sister Statzer expressed some of the ways the fire can destroy, and then some of the ways it can be very useful in our lives.

Sister Lottie Cardwell taught with a flannel board, which was very interesting. Her topic was "Promoting interest in Sunday School". She spoke of the different ways to get people interested in Sunday School. We hope there will be many more come out to our next meeting, especially Sunday School Teachers and superintendents of the Sunday Schools.

The next meeting will meet with the Heavenly Rest Church, Thursday before the first Sunday in October 1972, 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS PLEDGE

1. I pledge to keep my own spiritual life so that it will be an example to my class in Christian testimony, conversation, and prayer.

2. I pledge to endeavor to lead all my students who are unsaved to accept Christ as their personal Saviour.
3. I pledge to make the spiritual life of my students my chief concern in order to lead them to a fuller spiritual life.
4. I pledge that I will carefully prepare my lesson and make each session a matter of prayerful concern, presenting the doctrines of my church with conviction and honesty.
5. I pledge to attend all services possible that are conducted in my church and I will encourage my students to do likewise.
6. I pledge to endeavor to lead all my students to a high level of Christian living, preparation of lesson and giving in offering.
7. I pledge to live up to my responsibility in being prompt to visit all absentees.
8. I pledge by the help of God, to be faithful in performing my duties to the best of my ability.

THE MINISTERS AND DEACONS CONFERENCE

The Ministers and Deacons conference convened with the East Bristol Church, October 1, 1971, 7:30 p.m. The meeting began by singing, *Heavenly Sunlight*. Prayer was made by Rev. Elmer Adkins. Rev. Kyle French gave the devotional reading from Romans 12th chapter. The moderator Rev. Orville Trivette took charge of the business session. Fellowship was taken. All were in fellowship.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by the clerk, and received as read.

Motion was made and carried to enter into business session. Executive Board serving: Brother Kyle French, Brother Johnny Taylor, Brother Johnny Hooker.

The reports from the executive board were received as read by vote of the body.

We recommend Brother Howard Campbelle to serve on the board for the next five years.

We recommend Brother Kenneth Shaver to fill out the unexpired term of Brother M. C. Foran, who passed away April 5, 1971.

We recommend that Brother Johnny Hooker give the devotional at the next annual Ministers and Deacons Conference.

We recommend Brother Herbert Adams for moderator for the next annual Ministers and Deacons Meeting.

The ministers reports were read and received as read by vote. The ministers were passed on and received their annual ministerial cards.

Motion was made and carried to adjourn. Closed with prayer by Brother Howard Campbelle.

THE MINISTERS' REPORTS

Rev. Lula F. Henley: Sermons preached, 13; revivals conducted, assisted in 2.

Rev. Cecil Pressley: Sermons preached, 103; churches pastored, 1; revivals conducted, 3 and assisted in 1; professions witnessed, 22; marriages solemnized, 1; money received, \$3,380.00.

Rev. Homer Goodson: churches pastored, 1; revivals held, 1; professions witnessed, 25; funerals preached, 2; baptized, 10; additions to the church, 8; marriages solemnized, 3; money received, \$350.00.

Rev. Paul Price: sermons preached, 146; revivals conducted, 7, assisted in 1; professions witnessed, 40; funerals preached, 2; money received, \$1,372.18.

Rev. C. C. Olinger: sermons preached, 40; revivals held, 2; funerals preached, 3; marriages solemnized, 4; money received, \$429.46.

Rev. Johnny Hooker: churches pastored, 1; revivals held, 1; professions witnessed, 21; additions to the church, 1; funerals preached, 1; money received, \$350.00

Rev. Walter Statzer: sermons preached, 183; churches pastored, 1; revivals held, 2; professions witnessed, 57; funerals preached, 10; marriages solemnized, 1; conducted Bible Schools, 2; money received \$3,365.47.

Rev. Samuel Johnson: sermons preached, 52; churches pastored, 1; professions witnessed, 15; funerals preached, 1; miles traveled, 3,578; money recieved, \$186.14.

Rev. Dewey Foran: professions witnessed, 2; funeral preached, 1; money received, \$100.00.

Rev. Arthur Rhymer: sermons preached, 69; churches pastored, 1, for five months; professions witnessed, 11; number baptized, 2; funerals preached, 1; marriages solemnized, 2; money received, \$483.91.

Rev. Orville Trivette: sermons preached, 1; churches pastored, 1; professions witnessed, 6; number baptized, 3; funerals preached, 1; money received, \$25.00.

Rev. Howard Shaver: sermons preached, 70; churches pastored, 1; revivals held, assisted in 2; professions witnessed, 40; number baptized, 10; additions to church, 13; funerals preached, 6; marriages solemnized, 3; money received, \$1,100.00.

Rev. Elmer Adkins: sermons preached, 45; professions witnessed, 3; funerals preached, 1; money received, \$175.00.

Rev. Edd Pendergrass: churches pastored, assistant in 1; professions witnessed, 15; number baptized, 16; churches organized, 1; money received, \$40.00.

Rev. John Taylor: sermons preached, 59; professions witnessed, 14; money received, \$123.00.

Rev. Orville O'Quinn: sermons preached, 19; professions witnessed, 3; miles traveled, 1,360; money received \$229.40.

Rev. Herbert Adams: sermons preached, 109; churches pastored, 1; revivals held, 1, assisted in 1; professions witnessed, 89; number baptized, 39; marriages solemnized, 2; sick visits, 167; money received, \$750.72.

Rev. Shelton Norris: sermons preached, 119; churches pastored, 1; revivals held, 1; professions witnessed, 32; number baptized, 8; additions to church, 5; funerals preached, 2; marriages solemnized, 1; money received, \$1,019.00.

Rev. Harold Rouse: sermons preached, 97; churches pastored, 1; revivals held, 1; professions witnessed, 19; number baptized, 24; additions to church, 12; funerals preached, 1; marriages solemnized, 4; money received, \$1,375.00.

Rev. Kyle French: sermons preached, 174; revivals held, 9; Bible camp, 1 week; professions witnessed, 75; number baptized, 11; funerals preached, 8; marriages solemnized, 4; money received, \$567.20.

Rev. Rhea Willis: sermons preached, 50; revivals held, 2; professions witnessed, 6; number baptized, 5; miles traveled 400; money received, \$100.00.

Rev. Jennings Wilson: churches pastored, 1; revivals held, 3; professions witnessed, 163; number baptized, 15; additions to church, 50; funerals preached, 22; marriages solemnized, 8; money received, \$4,812.10.

Rev. Joe E. Tolliver: sermons preached, 48; churches pastored, 1; funerals preached, 2; miles traveled, 520; money received, \$113.00.

Rev. J. W. Chesnutt: sermons preached, 88; churches pastored, 1; professions witnessed, 6; number baptized, 11; funerals preached, 5; marriages solemnized, 5; money received, \$1,200.00.

Rev. C. F. Sprinkle: sermons preached, 200; churches pastored, 2; revivals held, 2; professions witnessed, 62; number baptized, 14; additions to the church, 11; funerals preached, 4; marriages solemnized, 5; money received, \$2,600.00.

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, 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 and 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 walks 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 delegate, and report their standings, 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, or in its judgment may promote the cause of Christ and the interests of the church 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 bylaws, 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 to supremely 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 Saviour 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 Word 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) Continuence in faith and obedience until death.
9. **Election.** God determines from the beginning to save all who should comply with the condition of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.
10. **Freedom 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. **Perserverance.** All beleivers in Christ, who through grace perservere 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, or ordinance teaching humility or universal obligation, is to be ministered to all true believers.
14. **Tithing.** God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament, Jesus Christ endorsed it in the gospel (Matthew 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, . . ." (I Corinthians 16:2).
15. **The Christian Sabbath.** The divine law required 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 principles 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 education 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.

