

*MINUTES*  
of the  
**John Wheeler Association**  
of  
**Free Will Baptist**  
**1976**

Proceedings  
of the  
**Ninety-Eighth Annual Association**

Convened with the  
**LIBERTY CHURCH**  
Marion, Virginia

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1976**

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THE 1977 SESSION WILL CONVENE  
WITH THE  
ROOTY BRANCH CHURCH  
SATURDAY BEFORE THE FIRST SUNDAY IN OCTOBER, 1977

## OFFICERS

MODERATOR: ..... Rev. Howard Campbell, Rt. 4, Bristol, Tenn.  
CLERK/TREASURER: ..... Bro. Raymond J. Freeman, Rt. 3, Marion, Va.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. John Taylor ..... Cleveland, Va.  
Rev. Walter Statzer ..... 238 Meadowcrest Drive, Bristol, Va.  
Rev. Johnny Hooker ..... Rt. 1, Blountville, Tenn.  
Bro. Sandy Bentley ..... 223 Delaney St., Bristol, Tenn.  
Bro. James White ..... Rt. 3, Bristol, Va.

## HOME MISSION BOARD

Rev. Walter Statzer ..... 238 Meadowcrest Drive, Bristol, Va.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL EVANGELIST

Mrs. Claude Cardwell ..... Box 88, Saltville, Va.

## TRUSTEES

Rev. Walter Statzer ..... 238 Meadowcrest Drive, Bristol, Va.  
Rev. Kyle French ..... P. O. Box 87, Chilhowie, Va.  
Rev. C. F. Sprinkle ..... Rt. 1, Bristol, Va.

## PROCEEDINGS

The Ninety-Eighth Annual meeting of the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptist convened at the Liberty Free Will Baptist Church, Marion, Va. on October 2, 1976.

The meeting began with the singing of "When The Redeemed Are Gathering In".

Singing led by Rev. Walter Statzer.

Welcome given by Rev. Avery Sheets.

The following scripture was read by the Clerk, St. Luke, Chapter nine, verses one thru six.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Hal Kirk.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. Howard Campbell.

The congregation sang "Amazing Grace" while having Fellowship. All were in Fellowship.

Move was made and passed by the body to enter into business.

A motion was made and passed by the body electing Rev. Walter Statzer to the Executive Board to serve the remainder of Bro. Steve Knipp's term. Bro. Steve has moved to Greeneville, Tenn. This term will expire October, 1977.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD SERVING TODAY

Rev. John Taylor  
Bro. James White

Rev. Johnny Hooker

Bro. Sandy Bentley  
Rev. Walter Statzer

## DELEGATES ENROLLED

### SOUTHWESTERN QUARTERLY:

Sister Bertha Helbert, Sister Edith Barker, Sister Mary Blaylock, Sister Florence Rouse, Bro. Parks Rosenbalm.

### NORTHEASTERN QUARTERLY:

Sister Lottie Cardwell, Sister Maxine Freeman, Jackie Davidson.

## STANDING DELEGATES ENROLLED

### MINISTERS:

Orville O'Quinn, Otis Barker, Ralph Graham, Elmer Cardwell, Jr., Bobby Collins, John Floyd, Kyle French, Howard Campbell, John Taylor, Joe Powers, C. F. Sprinkle, Herman Cress, Shelton Norris, Avery Sheets, George Sizemore, Clifton Rush, Walter Statzer, Johnny Hooker.

### DEACONS:

John Calhoun, Kyle Sexton, Jack Freeman, James White, Richard Dennison, Bill Campbell, Sandy Bentley.

VISITORS PRESENT: 12

VISITING MINISTERS: 1

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

## QUARTERLY MEETING REPORTS

### SOUTHWESTERN QUARTERLY:

MODERATOR: Rev. Howard Campbell

CLERK: Bro. John Calhoun

|                                             |     |
|---------------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of Churches .....                    | 9   |
| Church Membership .....                     | 715 |
| Number of Ordained Ministers .....          | 19  |
| Number of Licensed Ministers .....          | 2   |
| Number of Ordained Deacons .....            | 27  |
| Enrollment of Sunday Schools .....          | 730 |
| Average Attendance of Sunday School .....   | 558 |
| Enrollment of Church Training Service ..... | 105 |

|                                                     |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Average Attendance of Church Training Service ..... | 75  |
| Enrollment of Woman's Auxiliaries .....             | 64  |
| Mid-Week service average attendance .....           | 251 |

#### Financial Report:

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Pastor's Salaries .....   | \$14,489.75 |
| Evangelistic Work .....   | 1,953.82    |
| Building and Repair ..... | 25,783.38   |
| Literature .....          | 2,314.59    |
| Other .....               | 5,022.71    |

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TOTAL SPENT FOR LOCAL CAUSES ..... \$49,564.25

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Foreign Missions ..... | \$ 715.04 |
| Home Missions .....    | 770.20    |
| Orphanage .....        | 261.19    |
| Superannuation .....   | 2.50      |

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TOTAL SPENT FOR OUTSIDE CAUSES ..... \$ 1,748.93

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TOTAL EXPENDITURES ..... \$51,313.18

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Value of Church Property ..... | \$650,000.00 |
| Amount Enclosed for Fees ..... | 150.00       |

#### NORTHEASTERN QUARTERLY:

MODERATOR: Rev. Junior Gobble

CLERK: Sister Lottie Cardwell

|                                            |     |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of Churches .....                   | 9   |
| Church Membership .....                    | 810 |
| Number of Parsonages .....                 | 2   |
| Number of Ordained Ministers .....         | 29  |
| Number of Ordained Deacons .....           | 26  |
| Enrollment of Sunday School .....          | 795 |
| Enrollment of Church Training Service..... | 106 |
| Enrollment of Woman's Auxiliaries .....    | 75  |
| Enrollment of Master's Men .....           | 26  |
| Average Attendance of Master's Men .....   | 19  |
| Mid-Week Service average attendance .....  | 235 |

#### Financial Report:

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Pastors Salaries .....    | \$30,615.95 |
| Evangelistic Work .....   | 2,890.98    |
| Building and Repair ..... | 6,361.67    |
| Literature .....          | 2,508.17    |
| Other .....               | 11,406.43   |

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TOTAL SPENT FOR LOCAL CAUSES ..... \$53,783.20



## REPORT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL EVANGELIST

|                                               |    |
|-----------------------------------------------|----|
| Workshops conducted .....                     | 5  |
| Training Sessions .....                       | 1  |
| Number of Churches represented at class ..... | 4  |
| Registration at Class .....                   | 22 |

### FINANCIAL REPORT OF TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM

Money received through special song services:

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Shiloh Church .....        | \$ 30.00        |
| Liberty Church .....       | 37.34           |
| Cardwell Town Church ..... | 50.00           |
| East Bristol .....         | 15.72           |
| Adwolfe .....              | 20.00           |
| Balance from 1975 .....    | 122.42          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> .....         | <b>\$275.48</b> |

#### Expenditures:

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Teacher .....      | \$250.00        |
| Janitor .....      | 11.16           |
| <b>TOTAL</b> ..... | <b>\$261.16</b> |

**BALANCE** ..... \$ 14.32

## SUMMARY OF TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM

The third class in a series of Teacher Training Classes began Monday evening June 28, 1976. After the first class Stanley Outlaw, the teacher, received news that his father had died. The class was postponed until September 16. At this time Brother Outlaw returned and had classes Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evening and on Sunday afternoon. Brother Outlaw, a teacher at Free Will Baptist Bible College, taught a series of lessons on "Customs of Bible Days" and the book of Galatians.

## REPORT OF HOME MISSION BOARD

Rev. Walter Statzer, a member of the Home Mission Board spoke about supporting the State Home Mission Work.

**OLD BUSINESS** ..... **NONE**

### NEW BUSINESS

Rev. Hal Kirk spoke concerning the Free Will Baptist Childrens Home in Greeneville, Tenn.

Rev. Jim Cox spoke concerning the Free Will Baptist Church Directory. Virginia State Home Missions hopes to start another new church shortly. He also spoke on the Bible Camp.

A motion was made and passed by the body retaining Sister Lottie Cardwell as Sunday School Evangelist.

Rev. Walter Statzer will continue to represent us to the Home Mission Board.

The following recommendations were made by the Executive Board. All were voted on and passed by the body.

Rev. C. F. Sprinkle will be the Moderator for the 1977 Yearly session of the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptist.

Rev. Jennings Wilson will bring the eleven o'clock message at the 1977 Yearly session of the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptist.

Rev. Avery Sheets to serve on the Executive Board. He is to replace Rev. John Taylor who's term expires this year. Rev. Sheets term will expire in October 1981.

The Clerk is to write a registered letter to Rev. Samuel Johnson and Rev. Paul Rouse, Jr., stating they must report to their respective Quarterly by the end of 1976 concerning their Ministerial standing in the Association, unless they are providentially hindered. If no report is made they will be dismissed from the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptist as a Minister.

## SCHEDULE OF YOUTH RALLYS

Second Saturday night in November 1976 ..... East Bristol

Second Saturday night in February 1977 ..... Adwolve

Second Saturday night in May 1977 ..... Rooty Branch

Second Saturday night in August 1977 ..... Valley View

The congregation sang "When We All Get To Heaven" while receiving the morning offering.

Amount of Offering, \$33.25.

Morning business session recessed for eleven o'clock preaching service. Prayer by Rev. Orville O'Quinn.

## ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

The service opened by singing "Standing On The Promises".

Rev. Kyle French brought the eleven o'clock message using scripture from Daniel, chapter two, verses forty-four and forty-five.

Morning service closed in Prayer by Rev. Jim Cox.

Dismissed for lunch.

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The evening service began with the singing of "Jesus, I'm Coming Some Day."

The followings scripture was read by the Clerk, second Timothy, chapter four, verses one thru five.

Prayer was offered by Brother John Calhoun.

The following recommendation was made by the Executive Board. It was voted on and passed by the body.

Sister Maxine Freeman will serve as Assistant Clerk.

We, the Executive Board, recommend that this body accept and hand down to the Northeastern and Southwestern Quarterly meetings the attached recommendations and Questionnaire for Licensing and Ordaining of Ministers. (Recommendations to be read to this body before vote).

We also recommend that all ministers in both the Northeastern and Southwestern Quarterly Meetings fill out one of these questionnaires to the satisfaction of the Ordaining Council of his Quarterly Meeting.

Motion made and seconded for Executive Board to read to the body the Recommendation and Questions.

Said recommendation and questions read to the body. The Congregation was permitted to ask questions at this point concerning said recommendation and questions. All questions by the congregation were answered to their satisfaction by the Executive Board.

The following recommendations and questions are hereby adopted by 100% vote of the body, to be passed down to the Northeastern and Southwestern Quarterly meetings.

1. That a Licensing or Ordaining Council of at least three members, all Ordained Ministers be appointed to examine prospective Ministers when recommended by their respective churches to be Licensed or Ordained to preach the Gospel and for the Licensing or Ordaining Council to give their recommendations to the body for action.
2. That the Ordaining Council present the Candidate with a questionnaire. This Questionnaire is to be based on the Bible and Practices and Doctrines of Free Will Baptist. This Questionnaire is to be presented to the candidate at the time of his Licensing. It is to be filled out and returned to the Ordaining Council at the time the local church recommends that the Candidate be Ordained to preach the gospel.
3. The Ordaining Council will then review the filled out Questionnaire and meet with the individual to discuss, question, help, or further instruct him with any problems which he may have concerning the questions which would be helpful to him in the future. Upon this examination the Ordaining Council will have the authority to reject, or request the renewal of the candidate's license until he shows sufficient spiritual growth to be ordained, or to ordain the candidate by the laying on of hands and prayer according to Free Will Baptist Practices.
4. The Licensing and Ordaining Council's term of office to be so as one new member will be elected each year. One member will serve one year, one member will serve two years. One member will serve three years. All members elected thereafter will serve three year terms.

## ORDINATION EXAMINATION

Welcome to the Northeastern or Southwestern Quarterly Meeting of the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptist. We are happy that you have chosen this Association as your field of Ministry. We pray that we may be a blessing to you, and you an asset to our Denomination. If you have any questions concerning the following examination, please fell free to ask any member of the ordaining council.

1. Your Name ..... Age .....  
Address ..... Phone .....  
.....
2. Married ..... If yes, have you or your wife had a previous marriage? ..... If yes, is other partner still living? .....  
If answer is yes to all of these questions the Applicant **Can Not** be Ordained.
3. Do you have children? .....
4. Number of children .....
5. Do you consider yourself to be the head of your house, having your children under subjection? .....
6. Are you obligated financially in a way to bring embarrassment to you or the ministry? .....
7. If you should become so obligated, what would you do?  
.....
8. To which local Free Will Baptist church do you belong ?  
.....
9. How long have you been a member of this church? .....
10. What is your attitude toward future study and preparation for the ministry? .....
11. Why do you believe you are saved? .....
12. Why do you believe God has called you to preach ? .....
13. Why do you want to be Ordained? .....
14. Why have you chosen the Free Will Baptist as a field for your ministry? .....
15. If after you have been ordained, your character should become such as to bring reproach upon this Association, or should you choose to leave the Free Will Baptist, will you willfully return your credentials of ordination to the Ordaining Council? .....

16. Will you support the Auxiliaries of the Free Will Baptist Church and Denomination (CTS, Women's Aux., Sunday School, Masters Men, etc.?) .....
17. Will you favor denominational enterprises such as Bible College, Home and Foreign Missions, Home for Children? .....
18. What are the ordinances of the Free Will Baptist Church? .....  
.....
19. What is meant by "Free Will"? .....
20. Explain in your own words or by scriptures what is meant by the following doctrines.
  - A. The Trinity
  - B. The Incarnation of Christ
  - C. Faith
  - D. Repentance
  - E. Justification
  - F. Sanctification
  - G. Calvinism
  - G-1 Do you believe that a person once saved can ever be lost?
  - H. Armienism
  - I. Tithing
    - I-1 Do you tithe? .....
    - I-2 Will you preach tithing? .....
  - J. The Resurrection
  - K. Second coming of Christ
  - L. Judgements
  - M. Heaven
  - N. Hell
  - O. Satan
  - P. The Bible
  - Q. Virgin Birth of Christ
  - R. Holy Spirit
    - R-1. When does one receive the Holy Spirit? .....
  - S. Depravity of Man

Approved ☐ Disapproved ☐ License Extended ☐

Signed by Ordaining Council

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

A motion was made and passed by the body to hold the 1977 Associational Meeting at the Rooty Branch Free Will Baptist Church, Bristol, Tenn.

Delegates chosen to attend the Va. State Association when it convenes at Bull Run Free Will Baptist Church, Coeburn, Va. on Friday before the third Sunday in June, 1977 are as follows: Sister Madge Statzer, Sister Virginia Sprinkle, Sister Joyce Sexton, Sister Floyd, Bro. Kyle Sexton.

A motion was made and passed by the body to print 500 copies of the minutes.

A motion was made and passed by the body giving the Clerk the authority to correct any and all mistakes in the Minutes.

A standing vote of thanks was given to the Ladies of Liberty Free Will Baptist Church for the fine Lunch served.

A motion was made and passed by the body to adjourn.

Dismissed in prayer by Rev. Johnny Hooker.

We, the delegates of the represented classed and visiting Brothers and Sisters, offer our sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Liberty Free Will Baptist Church and community for their kind hospitality shown us during our stay in their locality.

Rev. Howard Campbell, Moderator  
Bro. Raymond J. Freeman, Clerk

#### **TERMS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD EXPIRES AS FOLLOWS**

|                           |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Rev. Walter Statzer ..... | October, 1977 |
| Rev. Johnny Hooker .....  | October, 1978 |
| Bro. Sandy Bentley .....  | October, 1979 |
| Bro. James White .....    | October, 1980 |
| Rev. Avery Sheets .....   | October, 1981 |

### **OBITUARY REPORT**

Rev. E. E. Edwards and Bro. Conley Hart

### **MINISTERS WHO BELONG TO THE JOHN WHEELER ASSOCIATION AND THEIR REPORTS**

Rev. Howard Campbell ..... Route 4, Bristol, Tenn. 37620  
Sermons Preached 104; Churches Pastored 1; Revivals Held 1; Professions Witnessed unknown; Number Baptized 20; Additions to Church 14; Funerals Preached 10; Marriages Solemnized 10; Money Received \$2,200.00. We have enjoyed our work. Pray for us.

- Rev. Clifton Vanover ..... 103 Nita St., Bristol, Tenn. 37620  
Sermons Preached 3; Been sick and in Veterans Hospital three times  
this year.
- Rev. Harold Rouse ..... Route 4, Bristol, Tenn. 37620  
Sermons Preached 25; Churches Pastored 1; Professions Witnessed  
16; Number Baptized 18; Additions to Church 14; Funerals Preached  
3; Marriages Solemnized 4.
- Rev. Avery Sheets ..... Route 3, Marion, Va. 24354  
Sermons Preached 83; Churches Pastored 1; Professions Witnessed  
16; Number Baptized 9; Additions to Church 8; Funerals Preached  
3; Marriages Solemnized 6; Miles traveled 5,000; Money Received  
\$4,000.00.
- Rev. Ralph Graham ..... Route 4, Marion, Va. 24354  
Sermons Preached 95; Churches Pastored 1; Professions Witnessed  
11; Additions to Church 6; Funerals Preached 1; Marriages Solem-  
nized 3; Money Received \$1,236.16.
- Rev. John Taylor ..... Cleveland, Virginia  
Sermons Preached 78; Revivals Held 1; Professions Witnessed 18;  
Number Baptized 10; Money Received \$160.00. Please pray for  
me that I can do what God would have me to do. I will pray for  
you all the best I know.
- Rev. Joe Powers ..... Route 2, Marion, Va. 24354  
Revivals Held 4; Professions Witnessed 48; Funerals Preached 6;  
Money Received \$440.00.
- Rev. David Neitch ..... Route 3, Marion, Va. 24354  
Sermons Preached 150; Revivals Held 1; Professions Witnessed 100;  
Money Received \$175.00.
- Rev. George Sizemore ..... Box 521, Abingdon, Va. 24210  
Sermons Preached 36; Revivals Held 2; Professions Witnessed 9;  
Additions to Church 3; Funerals Preached 4; Marriages Solemnized  
24; Miles Traveled 4,268; Money Received \$1,854.00; Pray for me  
that I may become more humble.
- Rev. Jennings Wilson ..... Chilhowie, Va. 24319  
Churches Pastored 1; Professions Witnessed 39; Number Baptized 3;  
Additions to Church 6; Funerals Preached 17; Marriages Solemnized  
22; Money Received \$5,954.00. Report for 8 months.
- Rev. Harman Cress ..... Route 1, Marion, Va. 24354  
Sermons Preached 64; Churches Pastored 1; Revivals Held 1; Pro-  
fessions Witnessed 34; Number Baptized 11; Funerals Preached 1;  
Marriages Solemnized 1; Miles Traveled 7,705; Money Received  
\$2,553.00.
- Rev. C. C. Olinger ..... Box 274, Saltville, Va. 24370  
Sermons Preached 14; Professions Witnessed 4; Number Baptized 1;  
Funerals Preached 3; Miles Traveled Many; Money Received \$85.00.  
Visited Hospitals and Homes.

- Rev. John Tilson ..... Route 3, Bristol, Tenn. 37620  
Sermons Preached 35; Churches Pastored 1 for three months; Number Baptized 3; Miles Traveled 3,000; Spoke at two Bible Camps; Conducted 1 singing school; Began senior year at Graham Bible College.
- Rev. Kyle French ..... Box 87, Chillhowie, Va. 24319  
Sermons Preached 101; Churches Pastored 1; Revivals Held Assisted 2; Professions Witnessed 20; Number Baptized 20; Additions to Church 4; Funerals Preached 10; Marriages Solemnized 7; Money Received \$4,160.00.
- Rev. Clyde Gamble ..... 540 Willow Branch Road, Bristol, Va. 24201  
Sermons Preached 48; Churches Pastored associated with 1; Revivals Held 1; Number Baptized 9; Visited Hospital. Pray for me that God will use me more.
- Rev. Walter Statzer ..... 238 Meadowcrest Drive, Bristol, Va. 24201  
Sermons Preached 178; Churches Pastored 1; Revivals Held 1; Number Baptized 9; Additions to Church 17; Funerals Preached 6; Marriages Solemnized 7; Money Received \$8,367.26; Conducted 1 singing school and 3 Bible schools.
- Rev. Robert Spears ..... Route 3, Abingdon, Va. 24210  
Sermons Preached 16; Professions Witnessed 3; Part of my records were misplaced while injured. This report after I was able to continue my work.
- Rev. Bob Surber ..... Route 2, Meadowview, Va. 24361  
Sermons Preached 72; Revivals Held Helped in 2; Professions Witnessed 7; Number Baptized Helped 4; Funerals Preached 1; Miles Traveled Approx. 3,800; Money Received Approx. \$37.00. Pray that I may do my best to fulfill my ministry in the Lord. Held 50 Services in Rest Homes.
- Rev. Arthur Rhymer ..... Route 3, Bristol, Tenn. 37620  
Sermons Preached 61; Revivals Held Assisted 1; Professions Witnessed 2; Number Baptized 3 Assisted 14; Funerals Preached 1; Marriages Solemnized 2; Money Received \$403.74.
- Rev. Orville Trivette ..... Route 4, Bristol, Tenn. 37620  
Sermons Preached 22; Churches Pastored 1; Professions Witnessed 4; Number Baptized 1; Funerals Preached 2; Marriages Solemnized 2; Money Received \$250.00.
- Rev. Levi Arnold ..... Route 9, Jonesboro, Tenn.  
Sermons Preached 135; Churches Pastored 1; Professions Witnessed 27; Number Baptized 3; Miles Traveled 2,000; Money Received \$1,000.00.
- Rev. C. F. Sprinkle ..... Route 1, Bristol, Va. 24201  
Sermons Preached 203; Churches Pastored 1; Revivals Held 1; Professions Witnessed 62; Number Baptized 11; Additions to Church 19; Funerals Preached 10; Marriages Solemnized 5; Miles Traveled 17,992; Money Received \$7,800.00; I thank the Lord for letting me be a worker for him in my little way.

- Rev. John Floyd ..... Route 2, Marion, Va. 24354  
Sermons Preached 212; Churches Pastored 1; Revivals Held 7; Professions Witnessed 187; Number Baptized 53; Additions to Church 53; Funerals Preached 9; Marriages Solemnized 11; Miles Traveled 31,000; Money Received \$7,800.00.
- Rev. Shelton Norris ..... Box 3078, Bristol, Tenn. 37620  
Sermons Preached 135; Churches Pastored 1; Revivals Held 1; Professions Witnessed 9; Number Baptized 3; Funerals Preached 2; Marriages Solemnized 2; Money Received \$1,880.00.
- Rev. Elmer Garry Cardwell, Jr. .... Route 2, Saltville, Va. 24370  
Sermons Preached 70; Youth Rally Held 1; Professions Witnessed 7; Money Received \$22.24; Visits 120 plus Nursing Home each Sunday.
- Rev. Bobby Collins ..... Route 2, Saltville, Va. 24360  
Sermons Preached 75; Revivals Held Helped in 1; Professions Witnessed 1; Number Baptized 2; Miles Traveled 1,995; Money Received \$7.00; 250 home visits; 25 hospital visits.
- Rev. Kenneth Shaffer ..... 1208 Virginia Ave., Bristol, Tenn. 37620  
Sermons Preached 81; Churches Pastored 1; Revivals Held 1, Assisted in 1; Number Baptized 2; Funerals Preached 1; Marriages Solemnized 1; Money Received \$1,426.43.
- Rev. Orville O'Quinn ..... 228 Crockett St., Bristol, Va. 24201  
Sermons Preached 20; Churches Pastored Assisted 1; Miles Traveled 600; Money Received \$200.00; Paid travel expenses of \$57.00.
- Rev. Johnny Hooker ..... Route 1, Blountville, Tenn. 37617  
Sermons Preached 103; Churches Pastored 1; Professions Witnessed 26; Additions to Church 4; Funerals Preached 3; Marriages Solemnized 4; Money Received \$600.00.
- Rev. Otis Barker ..... 114 Crescent Ave., Marion, Va. 24354  
Sermons Preached 51; Professions Witnessed 3; Number Baptized 7; Miles Traveled 4,000; Money Received \$26.75.
- Rev. Herbert Adams ..... Route 6, Bristol, Va. 24201  
Sermons Preached 100; Churches Pastored 1; Revivals Held Assisted in 2; Professions Witnessed 22; Additions to Church 2; Funerals Preached 1; Marriages Solemnized 1; Miles Traveled 1,177; Money Received \$516.37; Many sick visits; May the good Lord bless you, Pray for us.
- Rev. Ed Pendergrass ..... Route 1, Bristol, Tenn. 37620  
Sermons Preached 40; Churches Pastored Assisted 1; Revivals Held 2; Professions Witnessed 20; Number Baptized 25; Money Received \$200.00; Pray for us in the work of the Lord.
- Rev. Elmer Adkins ..... Route 4, Blountville, Tenn. 37617  
Sermons Preached 35; Professions Witnessed 3; Funerals Preached 1; Money Received \$50.00. Pray for me.

Rev. Ralph Carty ..... Route 5, Abingdon, Va. 24210  
 Sermons Preached Approx. 93; Churches Pastored 1; Revivals Held  
 3; Professions Witnessed Several; Number Baptized Approx. 6;  
 Additions to Church 2; Funerals Preached 2; Money Received Approx.  
 \$1,200.00.

Rev. J. W. Chesnutt ..... 520 Page St., Bristol, Va. 24201

Rev. Douglas Offield ..... Route 5, Bristol, Tenn. 37620

Rev. Lula Henley ..... 264 Lowland St., Abingdon, Va. 24210

Rev. Kenneth M. Skeens ..... 414 Fairfax Ave., Richlands, Va. 24641

Rev. Robert Smith ..... Route 5, Bluff City, Tenn.

Rev. Paul Rouse, Jr. .... 2161 Bradley St., Bristol, Va. 24201

Rev. Eddie Foster ..... Route 1, Marion, Va. 24354

Rev. Calvin Baumgardner ..... Route 1, Box 470, Damascus, Va. 24236

Rev. Samuel Johnson ..... Route 2, Glade Spring, Va.

Rev. Jim Cox ..... 1019 Vinton Road, N. E., Roanoke, Va.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKSHOP

The Annual Sunday School Workshop was held at the Liberty Free Will Baptist Church, Marion, Va. on September 30, 1976.

Services began with singing of "Amazing Grace".

Singing led by Sister Mary Callahan.

Welcome given by Jack Freeman.

The following scripture was read by the Clerk, Colossians, Chapter three, verses twelve thru seventeen.

## WORKSHOP

Sister Lottie Cardwell, Sunday School Evangelist, read Psalm number one and explained it.

Sister Cardwell recommended the following books be studied in individual churches.

History of Free Will Baptist  
 Church Government and Ordinances  
 The Pastor and His Work  
 Faith For Today.

Sister Cardwell explained first chapter. Congregation asked questions at the end of the first chapter. Open floor discussion followed on these questions.

Sister Cardwell demonstrated Sunday School Literature.  
 Number of persons present — 18.

Closed in prayer by Rev. C. F. Sprinkle.

## MINISTERS AND DEACONS CONFERENCE

The Ministers and Deacons Conference convened at the Liberty Free Will Baptist Church, Marion, Va. on October 1, 1976.

The meeting began by singing "The Glory Land Way".

Singing led by Rev. Walter Statzer.

Welcome given by Rev. Avery Sheets.

The following scripture was read by the Clerk, St. Mark, chapter sixteen, verses fourteen thru twenty.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Jim Cox.

The Devotional Message was brought by Rev. C. F. Sprinkle, using scripture from Genesis, chapter thirteen, verse twelve. Subject: "Disaster of Wrong Choice."

Prayer by Rev. Sprinkle.

The Conference was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. C. C. Olinger.

Move was made and passed by the body to enter into business.

The Congregation sang "Some Day" while having Fellowship. All were in Fellowship.

A moment of prayer was offered in respect for Rev. E. E. Edwards who has passed away.

Minutes of the 1975 Conference were read by the Clerk.

A move was made and passed by the body electing Rev. Bobby Collins to serve on the Executive Board tonight.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD SERVING

|                    |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Rev. John Taylor   | Rev. Johnny Hooker | Rev. Bobby Collins |
| Bro. Sandy Bentley |                    | Bro. James White   |

Letters from the following Ministers were read to the body.  
Shelton Norris      Lula Henley      Kenneth Skeens

Ministers reports were read and received as read.

**OLD BUSINESS** ..... **NONE**

## NEW BUSINESS

The following recommendations were made by the Executive Board.

Rev. Kyle French will be Moderator for the 1977 Ministers and Deacons Conference. This was voted on and passed by the Body.

Rev. Elmer Cardwell, Jr. will bring the 1977 Devotional Message at the Ministers and Deacons Conference. This was voted on and passed by the body.

Executive Board report on Rev. Paul Rouse, Jr. We the Executive Board recommend to hold this report over until the Saturday Morning Business Session. Motion was made and passed by the body to accept this recommendation.

New Ministerial cards were presented to the following Ministers:

Kenneth Shaffer, Ralph Graham, Kyle French, John Floyd, Herman Cress, Bob Surber, Orville O'Quinn, Ed Pendergrass, Clyde Gamble, Orville Trivette, Robert Spears, C. C. Olinger, George Sizemore, David Neitch, Walter Statzer, Herbert Adams, C. F. Sprinkle, Jim Cox, Avery Sheets, Levi Arnold, Jennings Wilson, Arthur Rhymer, Otis Barker, Joe Powers, Bobby Collins, Elmer Cardwell, Jr., Johnny Hooker.

Cards received by mail and approved: Rev. Shelton Norris.

The following Ministers were approved pending the receipt of their reports.

Kenneth Skeens, John Tilson, Elmer Adkins, Howard Campbell, Harold Rouse, J. W. Chesnutt, Clifton Vanover, Douglas Offield, Ralph Carty, Robert Smith.

A motion was made and passed by the body to hold the new Ministerial Card of Rev. Eddie Foster for two weeks. Will be given new card upon receipt of his letter and old card if received within said two weeks.

A motion was made and passed by the body to hold the new Ministerial Card of Rev. Samuel Johnson until the Saturday Morning Business Session. At this time the Executive Board will hear a report from the Committee sent to visit him. This Committee is composed of Rev. C. F. Sprinkle, Rev. Avery Sheets, Rev. John Floyd. Also a report from Sister Lottie Cardwell, Clerk of the Northeastern Quarterly.

A motion was made and passed by the body authorizing the Clerk to write a letter to Rev. Homer Goodson telling him to appear at the next Southwestern Quarterly Meeting of the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptist. He will be considered dismissed from the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptist if he does not appear unless providentially hindered.

A motion was made and passed by the body authorizing the Clerk to write a letter to Rev. Calvin Baumgardner to see if he wishes to retain his membership in the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptist.

Rev. Cecil Presley is no longer a member of the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptist, having asked for and received his letter from the Macedonia Free Will Baptist Church.

Rev. Hal Kirk assistant to Earl Raper Director of the Free Will Baptist Childrens Home, Greeneville, Tenn expressed thanks for Free Will Baptist help, asked for continued support and prayers.

Rev. Jim Cox showed The Free Will Baptist Church Directory. It contains all Free Will Baptist Churches, Pastors, and Clerks that belong to the National Association.

Number of Ministers present ..... 28  
Number of Deacons present ..... 7  
Number of Visiting Ministers present ..... 1  
Number of Visitors present ..... 9

The Congregation sang "Victory In Jesus", while receiving the offering.

Amount of the Offering: \$57.69.

Motion made and passed by the body to adjourn.

\* Meeting closed with prayer by Rev. Ed Pendergrass.

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## YEARLY MEETING OR ANNUAL ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1. This yearly meeting or association shall be called the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptist, 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 judgement 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 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 of 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 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 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, 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 communication with God.
16. **RESURRECTION, JUDGEMENT, 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.

