

**MINUTES**  
**of the**  
**John Wheeler Association**  
**of**  
**Free Will Baptist**  
**1977**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE**  
**Ninety-ninth Annual Association**

**CONVENED WITH THE**  
**ROOTY BRANCH CHURCH**  
**BRISTOL, TENN.**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1977**

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**THE 1978 SESSION WILL CONVENE WITH THE**  
**CARDWELL TOWN CHURCH**

**SATURDAY BEFORE THE FIRST SUNDAY IN OCTOBER, 1978**

## OFFICERS

MODERATOR ..... Rev. Kyle French, Box 87, Chilhowie, Va. 24319  
CLERK/TREASURER .... Bro. Raymond J. Freeman, Rt. 3, Marion, Va. 24354

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rev. Walter Statzer ..... 238 Meadowcrest Drive, Bristol, Va. 24201  
Rev. Johnny Hooker ..... Rt. 1, Blountville, Tenn. 37617  
Bro. Sandy Bentley ..... 223 Delaney St., Bristol, Tenn. 37620  
Bro. James White ..... Rt. 3, Bristol, Va. 24201  
Rev. Avery Sheets ..... Rt. 3, Marion, Va. 24354

## HOME MISSION BOARD

Rev. Walter Statzer ..... 238 Meadowcrest Drive, Bristol, Va. 24201

## TRUSTEES

Rev. Walter Statzer ..... 238 Meadowcrest Drive, Bristol, Va. 24201  
Rev. Kyle French ..... P. O. Box 87, Chilhowie, Va. 24319

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## PROCEEDINGS

The Ninety-ninth Annual meeting of the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptist convened at the Rooty Branch Free Will Baptist Church, Bristol, Tenn. on October 1, 1977.

The meeting began with the singing of "I'd Rather Be An Old Time Christian."

Singing led by Rev. Walter Statzer.

Welcome given by Rev. Howard Campbell.

The following scripture was read by the clerk, Hebrews, chapter 2, verses one thru nine.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Johnny Hooker.

The congregation sang, "Glory Land Way", while receiving the offering.

Amount of offering, \$26.15.

Rev. Kyle French was elected by the body to serve as Moderator for today's session.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. Kyle French.

The Congregation sang, "Victory In Jesus", while having Fellowship.

All were in Fellowship.

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

The body appointed Rev. Jim Cox and Rev. Bob Surber to serve on the Executive Board today in the absence of Rev. Avery Sheets and Bro. James White.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD SERVING TODAY

Rev. Johnny Hooker

Bro. Sandy Bentley

Rev. Walter Statzer

Rev. Jim Cox

Rev. Bob Surber

## DELEGATES ENROLLED

### SOUTHWESTERN QUARTERLY:

Sister Edith Barker, Sister Edith Hooker, Sister Virginia Cross, Sister Luna Bell Bentley, Sister Shirley Adams, Sister Peggy Derrick.

### NORTHWESTERN QUARTERLY:

Sister Maxine Freeman, Sister Linda Barker, Sister Kate Dennison, Sister Lottie Cardwell, Sister India Bentley.

## STANDING DELEGATES ENROLLED

### MINISTERS:

Orville O'Quinn, Jennings Wilson, Arthur Rhymer, Howard Campbell, John Floyd, Harold Rouse, Otis Barker, Jim Cox, Bob Surber, David Neitch, Elmer Cardwell, Jr., Ronnie Snider, Bobby Collins, G. C. Sizemore, Kyle French, Walter Statzer, Johnny Hooker, Lula Henley.

### DEACONS:

Jack Freeman, McKinley Miller, Bob Jones, J. W. Newman, Ray Rouse, Garnett McReynolds, Jerry Fritz, Sandy Bentley.

### VISITING MINISTERS:

James Raper, Robert Morgan.

VISITORS PRESENT: 51

## QUARTERLY MEETING REPORTS

### SOUTHWESTERN QUARTERLY:

MODERATOR: Rev. Walter Statzer

CLERK: John C. Calhoun

|                                            |     |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of Churches .....                   | 9   |
| Church Membership .....                    | 666 |
| Number of Ordained Ministers .....         | 23  |
| Number of Licensed Ministers .....         | 1   |
| Number of Ordained Deacons .....           | 38  |
| Enrollment of Sunday Schools .....         | 656 |
| Average Attendance of Sunday Schools ..... | 560 |

|                                                     |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Enrollment of Church Training Service .....         | 90  |
| Average Attendance of Church Training Service ..... | 65  |
| Enrollment of Women's Auxiliaries .....             | 45  |
| Average Attendance of Woman's Auxiliaries .....     | 31  |
| Mid-Week Service Average Attendance .....           | 235 |

#### **Financial Report:**

##### **Spent for local causes**

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Pastors Salaries .....    | \$15,355.44 |
| Evangelistic Work .....   | 2,477.78    |
| Building and Repair ..... | 25,847.92   |
| Literature .....          | 2,183.78    |
| Other .....               | 5,122.96    |

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TOTAL SPENT FOR LOCAL CAUSES ..... \$50,987.88

##### **Spent for outside causes**

|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Foreign Missions .....            | \$ 632.93 |
| Home Missions .....               | 913.81    |
| Orphanage .....                   | 462.86    |
| State and National Projects ..... | 72.06     |

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TOTAL SPENT FOR OUTSIDE CAUSES ..... \$ 2,081.66

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TOTAL EXPENDITURES ..... \$53,069.54

Value of Church Property ..... \$765,000.00

#### **NORTHEASTERN QUARTERLY:**

MODERATOR: Bobby Collins

CLERK: Lottie Cardwell

|                                                     |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of Churches .....                            | 7   |
| Church Membership .....                             | 721 |
| Number of Parsonages .....                          | 3   |
| Number of Ordained Ministers .....                  | 23  |
| Number of Licensed Ministers .....                  | 2   |
| Number of Ordained Deacons .....                    | 23  |
| Average Attendance of Sunday School .....           | 818 |
| Average Attendance of Church Training Service ..... | 26  |
| Average Attendance of Woman's Auxiliaries .....     | 56  |
| Average Attendance of Master's Men .....            | 28  |
| Mid-Week Service Average Attendance .....           | 283 |

#### **Financial Report:**

##### **Spent for local causes:**

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Pastor's Salaries .....   | \$28,319.28 |
| Evangelistic Work .....   | 4,979.44    |
| Building and Repair ..... | 28,864.76   |

|                                              |                    |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Literature .....                             | 3,989.40           |
| Other .....                                  | 17,333.52          |
| <b>TOTAL SPENT FOR LOCAL CAUSES .....</b>    | <b>\$83,486.40</b> |
| <b>Spent for outside causes:</b>             |                    |
| Cooperative Plan .....                       | \$ 108.42          |
| Foreign Missions .....                       | 1,271.57           |
| Home Missions .....                          | 2,583.75           |
| Education .....                              | 844.26             |
| Orphanage .....                              | 1,909.29           |
| <b>TOTAL SPENT FOR OUTSIDE CAUSES .....</b>  | <b>\$ 6,717.29</b> |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES .....</b>              | <b>\$90,203.69</b> |
| Value of Church Property, (2 Churches) ..... | \$305,000.00       |
| Value of parsonage property .....            | 75,000.00          |
| Amount enclosed for fees .....               | 270.00             |

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Balance on hand, October 2, 1976 ..... \$ 460.84

### Expenditures:

|                                          |         |
|------------------------------------------|---------|
| Free Will Baptist Church Directory ..... | \$ 4.00 |
| Memograph Repair and Paper .....         | 12.87   |
| Typewriter Ribbon .....                  | 1.77    |
| Printing of Minutes .....                | 267.28  |
| Postage and Envelopes .....              | 12.56   |
| Va. State Association .....              | 100.00  |
| Clerk .....                              | 25.00   |

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES .....** **\$ 423.48**

**BALANCE .....** **\$ 37.36**

|                                              |          |
|----------------------------------------------|----------|
| Friday Night Offering .....                  | \$ 15.16 |
| Saturday Morning Offering .....              | 26.15    |
| Received from Quarterly — Northeastern ..... | 270.00   |
| Southwestern .....                           | 350.00   |

**TOTAL RECEIPTS .....** **\$ 661.31**

**Balance October 1, 1977 .....** **\$ 698.67**

A motion was made and passed by the body to accept the Treasurers report as read.

## REPORT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL EVANGELIST

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Workshops Conducted .....      | 6 |
| Teacher Training Classes ..... | 4 |
| Vacation Bible Schools .....   | 2 |

The Teachers Training Class will be held November 17 thru November 20, 1977 at the Following Churches.

|                   |                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| November 17 ..... | East Bristol                      |
| November 18 ..... | Liberty                           |
| November 19 ..... | Landmark                          |
| November 20 ..... | Cardwell Town Morning Service     |
| November 20 ..... | Feathers Chapel Afternoon Service |

Balance in Account ..... \$14.12

## REPORT OF HOME MISSION BOARD

Rev. Jim Cox, a member of the Home Mission Board, reported on the following matters.

The Home Mission Board plans to establish a Free Will Baptist Church in Charlottesville in the near future.

Rev. Cox spoke on the need for additional Free Will Baptist Churches in Virginia.

Rev. Cox spoke about the Bible Camp, located at Wise, Va.

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

## NEW BUSINESS

The Southwestern and Northeastern Quarterlys will be responsible for conducting Youth Rallys in their respective Quarterlys.

The Southwestern and Northeastern Quarterlys will hold a Joint Youth Rally in August of each year. This Youth Rally will be under the direction of youth leaders from both Quarterly meetings.

A motion was made and passed by the body to hold the 1978 Association Meeting at the Cardwell Town Free Will Baptist Church, Saltville, Va.

Rev. Earl Raper of Free Will Baptist Home for Children, Greenville, Tenn. thanked the churches for their support of the home. Gave general information about the home. He also asked for the continued support of the home.

Rev. Stanley Outlaw, a teacher at Free Will Baptist College, Nashville, Tenn., will conduct a Teacher Training Class for the association in November 1977. Rev. Outlaw will teach one night in each of the fol-

lowing churches, Land Mark, Liberty, Cardwell Town, Feathers Chapel, and East Bristol.

The Clerk read a letter to the Association from Rev. C. C. Olinger.

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

Rev. Elmer Cardwell Jr. to serve on the Executive Board. He is to replace Rev. Walter Statzer whos term expires this year. Rev. Cardwell's term will expire in 1982.

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

Rev. Jim Cox will be the Moderator for the 1978 Yearly session of the John Wheeler Association of Free Will Baptist.

Rev. Jim Cox, Moderator for the 1978 session, is here by given permission to select the speaker for the eleven o'clock service.

We the executive board recommend the office of Sunday School Evangelist be eliminated, and request that each quarterly meeting elect a Sunday School Evangelist for their respective quarterly meeting. The Evangelist from each Quarterly meeting will work together to conduct the Annual Sunday School Work Shop.

The morning Business Session was closed with Prayer by Sister Henley.

## ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

The service opened by singing, "Kneel at The Cross."

Rev. Jennings Wilson brought the eleven o'clock message using scripture from Isiah, Chapter 21, verse 6, Joel, chapter 3, verse 9 and 10, 1st Peter, chapter 4, verse 17 and 18.

Text: "Go Set a Watchman, let him declare what he seeth."

The congregation sang, "Amazing Grace", while Rev. Wilson gave the invitation.

Eleven o'clock service closed with prayer by Rev. Orville O'Quinn.

Dismissed for lunch.

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The evening service began with the singing of "Standing On The Promises".

Prayer by Rev. Howard Campbell.

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

We recommend that a list of Ministers names be sent from the Quarterly Meetings to the Annual Association annually as approved by quarterly meetings as being in good standing with the Conference to have new Ministerial cards issued.

A motion was made and passed by the body giving Sister Lottie Cardwell authority to appoint delegates to the State Association. The Va. State Association will convene at First Free Will Baptist Church, Richmond, Va. on Friday before the third Sunday in June 1978.

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

Minutes of the 1977 session were read by the Clerk. Minutes were approved by the body as read.

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 Rooty Branch 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. John Floyd.

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

Rev. Kyle French, Moderator  
Bro. Raymond J. Freeman, Clerk

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

|                               |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Rev. Johnny Hooker .....      | October, 1978 |
| Bro. Sandy Bentley .....      | October, 1979 |
| Bro. James White .....        | October, 1980 |
| Rev. Avery Sheets .....       | October, 1981 |
| Rev. Elmer Cardwell, Jr. .... | October, 1982 |

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

|                          |                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rev. Ralph Carty .....   | Route 5, Abingdon, Va. 24210<br>Sermons preached, approx. 152; Revivals held, 2; Number baptized, 1; Funerals preached, 2; Marriages solemnized, 3; Money received, approx. \$3,000.00. |
| Rev. Ronnie Snider ..... | Chilhowie, Va. 24319<br>Report for 4 months, Sermons preached, 20; Money received, \$30.00.                                                                                             |

- Rev. George Sizemore ..... Box 521, Abingdon, Va. 24210  
 Revivals held, 3; Professions witnessed, 3; Marriages solemnized, 14;  
 Miles traveled, approx. 9,000; Money received, \$2,122.60; Pray for  
 the Lost.
- Rev. Homer Goodson ..... Rt. 5, Box 654, Bristol, Va. 24201  
 Churches pastored, 1; Revivals held, 1; Professions witnessed, 16;  
 Number baptized, 6; Funerals preached, 3; Marriages solemnized, 8;  
 Money received, \$400.00.
- Rev. Curtis Haven ..... Rt. 1, Saltville, Va. 24370  
 Sermons preached, 4; Miles traveled, approx. 1,000.
- Rev. Herman W. Cress ..... Rt. 1, Marion, Va. 24354  
 Sermons preached, 180; Churches pastored, 1; Revivals held, 2;  
 Professions witnessed, 20; Number baptized, 10; Funerals preached,  
 1; Marriages solemnized, 5, Miles traveled, 8,178; Money received,  
 \$6,027.00. This Ministry is done at Russells Chapel and we desire  
 your prayers.
- Rev. Kenneth Shaffer ..... 1208 Virginia Ave., Bristol Tenn. 37620  
 Sermons preached, 85; Churches pastored, 1; Revivals held, 2;  
 Number baptized, 2; Additions to Church, 3; Funerals preached, 2;  
 Marriages solemnized, 1; Money received, \$1,756.29.
- Rev. Harold Rouse ..... Rt. 4, Bristol, Tenn. 37620  
 Sermons preached, 20; Churches pastored, 1; Professions witnessed,  
 6; Number baptized, 4; Additions to Church, 4; Funerals preached, 3;  
 Marriages solemnized, 3.
- Rev. C. C. Olinger ..... Box 274, Saltville, Va. 24370  
 Sermons preached, 36; Churches pastored, helped out 2; Profes-  
 sions witnessed, 8; Funerals preached, 1; Marriages solemnized, 1;  
 Money received, \$771.01. Visited many homes and hospitals.
- Rev. Bobby Collins ..... Rt. 2, Saltville, Va. 24370  
 Sermons preached, 62; Revivals held, helped in 1; Professions wit-  
 nessed, 1; Number baptized, 2; Miles traveled, 1,020.; Money  
 received, \$33.00.
- Rev. David Neitch ..... Rt. 3, Marion, Va. 24354  
 Sermons preached, 150; Churches pastored, 1; Revivals held, 2;  
 Professions witnessed, 85; Number baptized, 22; Additions to  
 Church, 14; Funerals preached, 4; Marriages solemnized, 3; Money  
 received, \$2,000.00.
- Rev. Orville O'Quinn ..... 228 Crockett St., Bristol, Va. 24201  
 Sermons preached, 24; Miles traveled, 550; Money received, \$178.84
- Rev. Arthur Rhymer ..... Rt. 3, Bristol, Tenn. 37620  
 Sermons preached, 54; Revivals held, assisted in 3; Professions  
 witnessed, 2; Money received, \$214.57.
- Rev. Joe Powers ..... Rt. 2, Marion, Va. 24354  
 Sermons preached, 150; Revivals held, 6; Funerals preached, 8;  
 Miles traveled, 2,500; Money received, \$550.00.

- Rev. Walter Statzer ..... 238 Meadowcrest Drive, Bristol, Va. 24201  
Sermons preached, 146; Churches pastored, 1; Revivals held, 2;  
Number baptized, 11; Additions to Church, 13; Funerals preached, 12;  
Marriages solemnized, 9; Money received, \$8,988.42; Conducted  
3 Bible Schools.
- Rev. Avery Sheets ..... Rt. 3, Marion, Va. 24354  
Sermons preached, 80; Churches pastored, 1; Revivals held, 1;  
Professions witnessed, 36; Number baptized, 6; Marriages solemn-  
ized, 2; Miles traveled, 5,000; Money received, \$1,500.00; Held  
one Bible School.
- Rev. Shelton Norris ..... Box 3078, Bristol, Tenn. 37620.  
Sermons preached, 129; Churches pastored, 1; Professions witnes-  
sed, 1; Number baptized, 11; Funerals preached, 3; Marriages  
solemnized, 3; Money received, approx. \$1,900.00.
- Rev. Howard Campbell ..... Rt. 4, Bristol, Tenn. 37620  
Sermons preached, 97; Churches pastored, 1; Revivals held, 2;  
Funerals preached, 17; Marriages solemnized, 10; Money received  
\$1,500.00.
- Rev. Jim Cox ..... 1019 Vinton Road, N.E., Roanoke, Va. 24012  
Sermons preached, 175; Churches pastored, 1; Revivals held, 2;  
Funerals preached, 1; Marriages solemnized, 1; Miles traveled,  
15,000; Money received, \$6,700.00.
- Rev. Herbert Adams ..... Rt. 6, Bristol, Va. 24201  
Sermons preached, 113; Churches pastored, 1; Revivals held, 1;  
Assisted in 2; Funerals preached, 1; Marriages solemnized, 1;  
Money received, \$370.66; Sick visits ,many; May the Lord bless you  
all. Pray for us.
- Rev. Johnny Hooker ..... Rt. 1, Blountville, Tenn. 37617  
Sermons preached, 156; Churches pastored, 1; Revivals held, helped  
in 3; Professions witnessed, 57; Number baptized, 33; Additions to  
Church, 38; Funerals preached, 1; Marriages solemnized, 2; Money  
received, \$900.00.
- Rev. Elmer Adkins ..... Rt. 4, Blountville, Tenn. 37617  
Sermons preached, 3; Professions witnessed, 1; Money received,  
\$150.00. Pray for me. May God bless all of your work.
- Rev. John E. Floyd, Sr. .... Rt. 2, Marion, Va. 24354  
Sermons preached, 442; Churches pastored, 1; Revivals held, 2;  
Professions witnessed, 70; Number Baptized, 26; Additions to  
Church, 29; Funerals preached, 11; Marriages solemnized, 10;  
Miles traveled, 51,000; Money received, \$7,300.00. Thank God  
for giving me strength to work for him another year.
- Rev. Elmer Cardwell, Jr. .... Rt. 2, Saltville, Va. 24370  
Sermons preached, 51; Professions witnessed, 6; Money received  
\$143.70.

- Rev. Otis Barker ..... 114 Crescent Ave., Marion, Va. 24354  
Sermons preached, 21; Professions witnessed, 4; Number baptized, 6; Miles traveled, 3,110; Money received, \$190.00.
- Rev. Ed Pendergrass ..... Rt. 1, Bristol, Tenn. 37620  
Sermons preached, 60; Churches pastored, assisted 1; Revivals held, 1; Professions witnessed 15; Money received, \$300.00. Pray for us as we go forward in the work of the Lord.
- Rev. Clyde Gamble ..... 540 Willow Branch Road, Bristol, Va. 24201  
Sermons preached, 70; Churches pastored, 1; Professions witnessed, 3; Number baptized, 9; Funerals preached, 1; Marriages solemnized, one. Praise God for his blessings upon us all.
- Rev. Jennings Wilson ..... Box 711, Chilhowie, Va. 24319  
Revivals held, 2; Professions witnessed, 18; Funerals preached, 12; Marriages solemnized, 11; Money received, \$1,225.23.
- Rev. Bob Surber ..... Rt. 2, Meadowview, Va. 24361  
Sermons preached, 91; Churches pastored, 1; Revivals held, 3; Professions witnessed, 3; Number baptized, 2; Additions to Church, 3; Marriages solemnized, 3; Miles traveled, approx. 7,000; Money received, \$1,192.00; Held Soul winning class for 2 months. I praise the Lord for his blessings and look forward to a glorious year next year.
- Rev. John Taylor ..... Rt. 1, Cleveland, Va.  
Sermons preached, 30; Professions witnessed, 22; Number baptized, 6; Funerals preached, 2; Money received, \$240.00. Please pray for us that we can let our light shine out to the lost and they may be saved.
- Rev. Kyle French ..... Box 87, Chilhowie, Va. 24319  
Sermons preached, 82; Churches pastored, 1; Revivals held, assisted 1; Professions witnessed, 12; Number baptized, 6; Additions to Church, 2; Funerals preached, 5; Marriages solemnized, 6; Money received, \$4,160.00.
- Rev. Clifton Vanover ..... 103 Nita St., Bristol, Tenn. 37620  
Sermon preached, 1. I am under doctors orders now and am unable to travel very far.
- Rev. Levi Arnold ..... Rt. 9, Jonesboro, Tenn.  
Sermons preached, 145; Churches pastored, 1; Revivals held, 1; Professions witnessed, 10; Number baptized, 3; Funerals preached, 1; Marriages solemnized, 1; Money received, \$900.00.
- Rev. Clifton Rush ..... Rt. 3, Bristol, Tenn. 37620  
Sermons preached, approx. 45; Churches pastored, 1; Professions witnessed, 5; Money received, approx. \$60.00.
- Rev. Robert Smith ..... Rt. 5, Bluff City, Tenn.
- Rev. J. W. Chesnutt ..... 520 Page St., Bristol, Va. 24201
- Rev. Douglas Offield ..... Rt. 5, Bristol, Tenn. 37620

Rev. Orville Trivett ..... Rt. 4, Bristol, Tenn. 37620  
Rev. Lula Henley ..... 264 Lowland St., Abingdon, Va. 24210

## SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKSHOP

The Annual Sunday School Workshop was held at the Rooty Branch Free Will Baptist Church, Bristol, Tenn. on Sept. 29, 1977.

Services began with singing of "The Glory Land Way."

Singing led by Rev. Walter Statzer.

Welcome given by Rev. Howard Campbell.

The following scripture was read by Rev. Howard Campbell, Romans chapter eight, verses one thru three.

Prayer was offered by Jack Freeman.

## WORKSHOP

Sister Lottie Cardwell, Sunday School Evangelist, talked about the book, "The Christian Family".

Sister Francis Powers taught a lesson using Flannel Graph. Title of this lesson, "Friends of Jesus."

Sister Powers demonstrated articles that you can use in teaching children age three to five.

Sister Lottie read the following scripture, Second Timothy, Chapter Two, verses fifteen thru nineteen.

Using scripture from Hebrews, chapter eleven, Sister Lottie discussed Hereos of Faith. Also using the following scripture's, she discussed the Age of Grace. Isaiah, chapter 53, verses 7 and 8.; John, chapter 1, verse 29, Ezekiel, chapter 36, verse 26 and 27. John, chapter 14, verse 15 thru 17. Acts, chapter 2, verse 1 thru 4.

A question and answer session followed.

Closed in prayer by Rev. Bob Surber.

## MINISTERS AND DEACONS CONFERENCE

The Ministers and Deacons Conference convened at the Rooty Branch Free Will Baptist Church, Bristol, Tenn. on Sept. 30, 1977.

The meeting began by singing "Where Can I Go." Singing led by Rev. John Taylor.

Welcome was given by Rev. Howard Campbell.

The following scripture was read by the Clerk, First Timothy, chapter three, verses one thru thirteen.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Shelton Norris.

The devotional message was brought by Rev. Garry Cardwell, Jr., using scripture from First Timothy, chapter four, verse twelve. Subject "Conference, 1990".

Rev. Howard Campbell was elected by the body to Moderate this meeting in the absence of Moderator, Kyle French.

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

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

The congregation sang, "Just Over In Glory Land", while having fellowship.

All were in fellowship.

The Clerk read the Minutes of the 1976 Session.

Move was made and passed by the body electing Rev. Levi Arnold and Rev. Shelton Norris to serve on the Executive Board in the absence of regular Executive Board members Walter Statzer and James White.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD SERVING

|                    |                     |                   |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Rev. Johnny Hooker | Bro. Sandy Bentley  | Rev. Avery Sheets |
| Rev. Levi Arnold   | Rev. Shelton Norris |                   |

Letters were read and reports made on the following Ministers: Kenneth Shaffer, Curtis Haven, Harold Rouse, Elmer Adkins, Herman Cress, Homer Goodson, Lula Henley.

A motion was made and passed by the body to receive the letters and reports as read.

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

## NEW BUSINESS

Ministers reports were read and received as read.

New Ministerial Cards were presented to the following Ministers: Howard Campbell, Johnny Hooker, Herbert Adams, Levi Arnold, Bob Surber, David Neitch, John Taylor, Harold Rouse, Shelton Norris, Clifton Rush, Otis Barker, Ed Pendergrass, Arthur Rhymer, Jennings Wilson, Joe Powers, Avery Sheets, Clifton Vanover, Orville O'Quinn.

This following Ministers were passed by the body to receive their new Ministerial Cards:

Robert Smith, Curtis Haven, Ronnie Snider, Lula Henley, Douglas Offield, J. W. Chesnutt, Bobby Collins, John Floyd, Herman Cress, Kyle French, Walter Statzer, George Sizemore, Homer Goodson, Elmer Cardwell, Jr., Ralph Carty, C. C. Olinger, Clyde Gamble, Jim Cox, Elmer Adkins.

The following recommendations were made by the Executive Board: Rev. Orville O'Quinn will bring the Devotional Message at the 1978 Ministers and Deacons Conference. This was voted on and passed by the body.

Rev. Arthur Rhymer will be the Moderator at the 1978 Ministers and Deacons Conference. This was voted on and passed by the body.

The Congregation sang, "He Set Me Free.", while receiving the offering.

Amount of the offering — \$15.16.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Herbert Adams.

The Minutes of the meeting were read by the Clerk. Minutes were approved by the body as read.

Motion made and passed by the body to adjourn.

Meeting closed with prayer by Rev. Orville Trivette.

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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.

