



# **MINUTES**

*of the*

## **SIXTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION**

### **OF THE**

# **MARTIN FREEWILL BAPTIST**

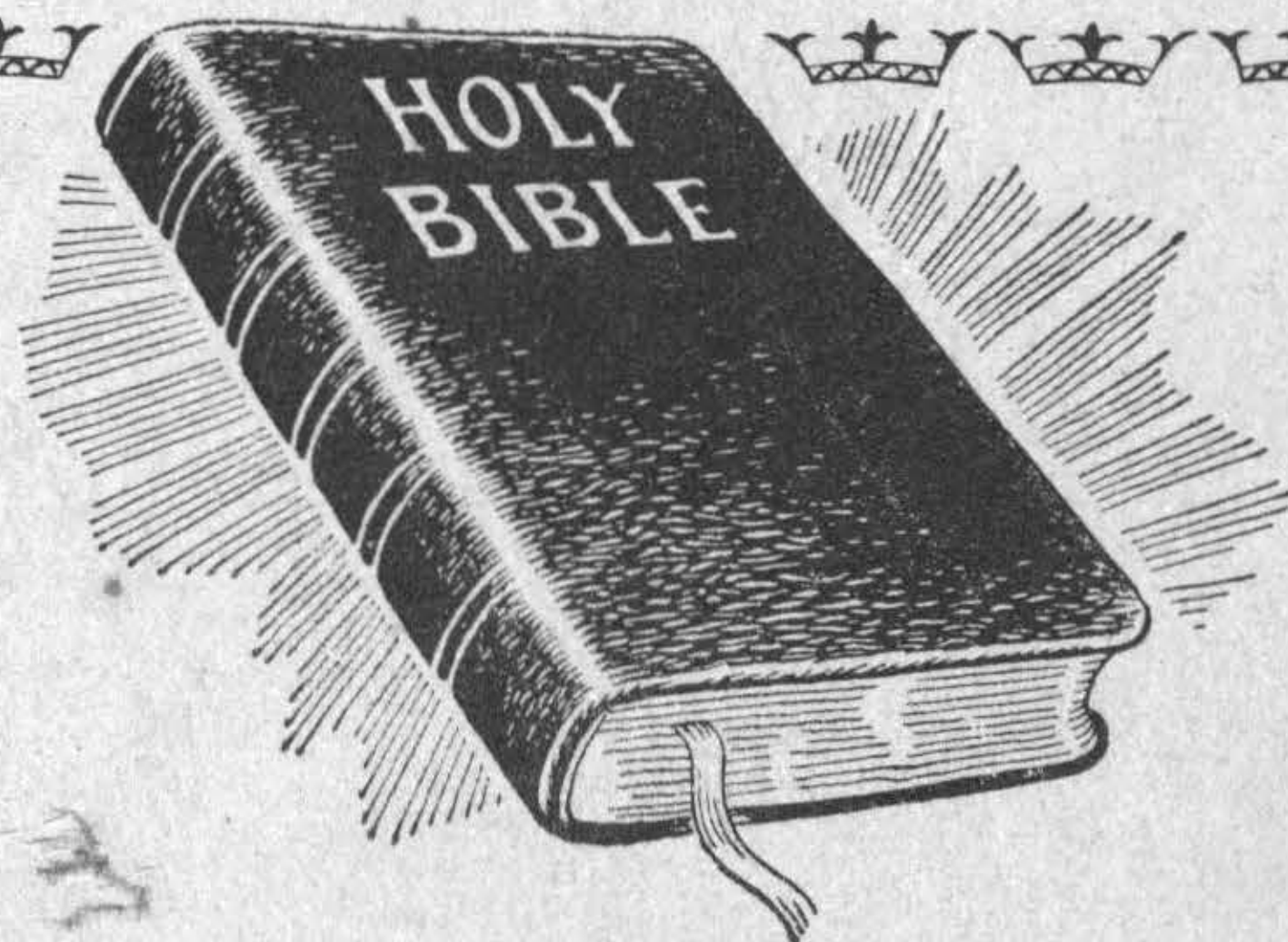
## **ASSOCIATION**

*held at*

**NEW SALEM CHURCH**

**Colquitt, Miller County, Georgia**

**October 26th and 27th, 1951**



#### **-:- OFFICERS -:-**

REV. H. L. CATRETT, Moderator - - - - - Colquitt, Ga.  
W. E. LANE, Secretary - Treasurer - - - - - Iron City, Ga.

#### **-:- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -:-**

W. J. HILBURN - - - - - Newton, Ga.  
B. D. WELLS - - - - - Colquitt, Ga.  
W. R. BARBER - - - - - Colquitt, Ga.  
G. W. CHAMBERS, Emeritus - - - - - Colquitt, Ga.  
F. W. CORDELL, Emeritus - - - - - Iron City, Ga.

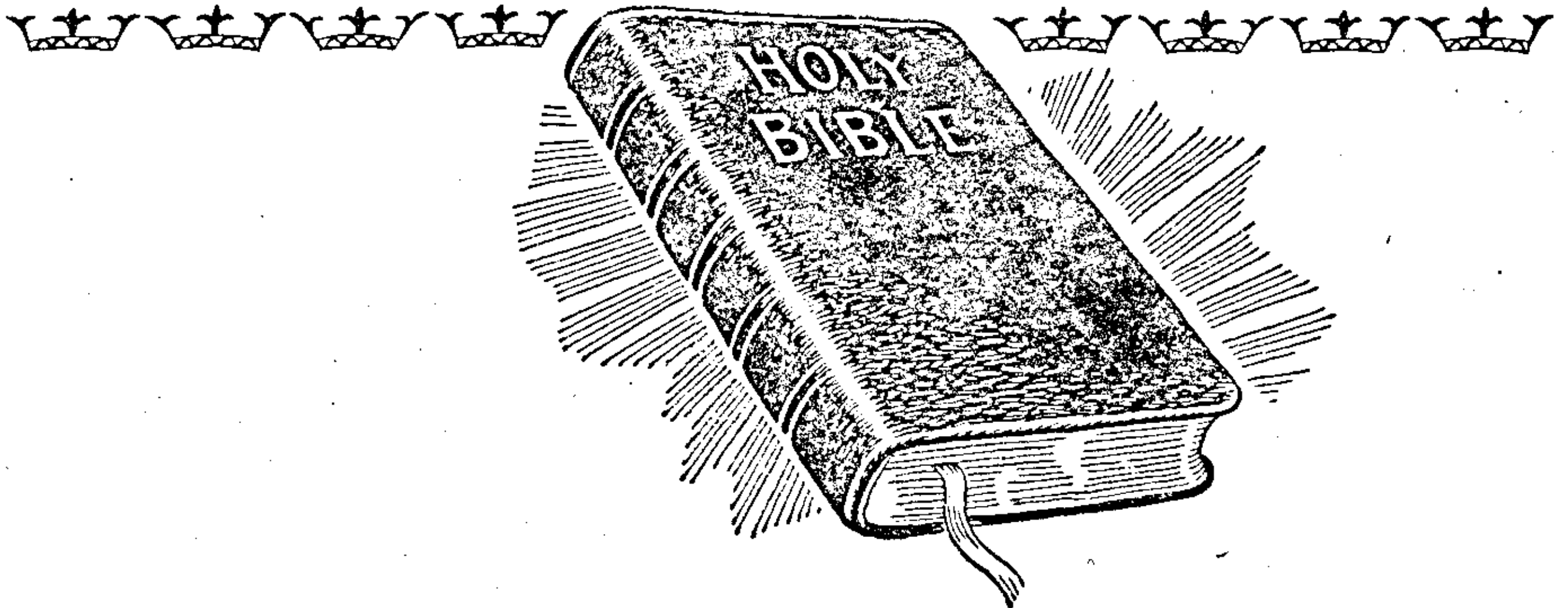
Nest session to convene at Corinth Church, Iron City, Seminole County, Georgia,  
on Friday and Saturday before the 4th Sunday in October 1952. Rev. B. W. Clenney  
to preach the Introductory Sermon; Rev. F. W. Sellers, alternate.





**MINUTES**  
*of the*  
**SIXTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**MARTIN FREEWILL BAPTIST**  
**ASSOCIATION**

*held at*  
**NEW SALEM CHURCH**  
Colquitt, Miller County, Georgia  
October 26th and 27th, 1951



**-- OFFICERS --**

REV. H. L. CATRETT, Moderator - - - - - Colquitt, Ga.  
W. E. LANE, Secretary - Treasurer - - - - - Iron City, Ga.

**-- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE --**

W. J. HILBURN - - - - - Newton, Ga.  
B. D. WELLS - - - - - Colquitt, Ga.  
W. R. BARBER - - - - - Colquitt, Ga.  
G. W. CHAMBERS, Emeritus - - - - - Colquitt, Ga.  
F. W. CORDELL, Emeritus - - - - - Iron City, Ga.

Nest session to convene at Corinth Church, Iron City, Seminole County, Georgia,  
on Friday and Saturday before the 4th Sunday in October 1952. Rev. B. W. Clenney  
to preach the Introductory Sermon; Rev. F. W. Sellers, alternate.

## **-:- Standing Boards and Committees -:-**

### **ORDAINING COUNCIL**

Rev. H. L. Catrett, Chairman (1 year) - - - - - Rev. A. B. Ard, Emeritus  
Rev. L. D. Scott (2 years) - - - - - Rev. W. H. Horn (3 years)

### **MISSION BOARD**

O. F. Everson, Chairman (1 year) - - - - - Emmett Houston (3 years)  
Mrs. Inez Brunson, Sec. and Treas. (2 years)

### **SUPERANNUATION BOARD**

W. F. Norris, Chairman (2 years) - - - - - C. T. Turner (1 year)  
Mrs. Willie Mae Haire, Sec. and Treas. (3 years)

### **INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE**

W. O. Brunson, Chairman - - - - - A. R. Smith - - - - - Oscar Newberry

### **PROMOTIONAL BOARD**

Ira Crawford, Chairman (2 years) - - - - - W. R. Barber (1 year)  
Mrs. Mary Brown, Sec. and Treas. (3 years)

### **DISBURSEMENT COMMITTEE**

O. F. Everson - - - - - W. R. Barber - - - - - E. D. Scott

---

### **ORDAINED MINISTERS**

J. E. Wisham, Jr., Camilla, Ga.	B. W. Clenney, Rt. 3, Colquitt, Ga.
W. H. Edwards, Punta Gorda, Fla.	E. M. Brockett, Iron City, Ga.
W. H. Horn, Rt. 2, Donalsonville, Ga.	A. B. Ard, Bainbridge, Ga.
H. L. Catrett, Colquitt, Ga.	W. K. Wilson, Unknown
D. Floyd, Colquitt, Ga.	L. D. Scott, Brinson, Ga.
Tom Henry, Colquitt, Ga.	C. A. Gilbert, Blakely, Ga.
C. C. Cato, Colquitt, Ga.	F. W. Sellers, Rt. 3, Bainbridge, Ga.
W. A. Addison, Rt. 1, Brinson, Ga.	R. W. Holmes, Pelham, Ga.

### **LICENSED MINISTERS**

Della McAlpin, Snead, Fla.	Lewis Batchelor, Donalsonville, Ga.
C. P. Rump, Macon, Ga.	Mrs. Jessie Wisham, Camilla, Ga.
Grady Weathers, Donalsonville, Ga.	George West, Whigham, Ga.

## PROCEEDINGS

The 65th Annual Session of the Martin Freewill Baptist Association convened with New Salem Church, Colquitt, Miller County, Georgia at ten o'clock on Friday morning, October 20, 1951.

After a song and prayer led by Rev. Tom Henry, the session was opened with the devotional led by Rev. B. W. Clenney: subject, "Now is the time for aggressive action."

The welcome address was given by Oscar Newberry and response was made by J. C. Rhidlehoover.

At 10:30 A.M., the Moderator gave his message taken from Romans 8:14.

The Credential Committee composed of D. J. Roland, M. E. McNeal and W. F. Norris was appointed.

The 11:00 o'clock sermon was given by Rev. Edward Sheffield: subject, "To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is a sin." James 4:17.

The Association was dismissed for the noon hour.

The group was reassembled at 1:30 with devotional led by Rev. L. D. Scott: subject, "Where art Thou?" Genesis 9. Rev. Willie Sellers led in prayer.

The Credential Committee reported twenty churches represented with a total of \$366.25. The report was received and the delegates were seated with the body.

Mrs. Inez Brunson and Mrs. Lucile Stewart were appointed to read the letters which were as follows:

Corinth: Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Drake, Mrs. Etta Cross, Mrs. C. A. Lane,  
Friendship: Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Norris, Mrs. Beulah Bowen, Mrs. Bill Parr.

New Salem: E. B. Bush, Coy Broxton, Calista Lovering, Annie Roland,  
Marie Bush, Lane McClendon, Alice McClendon, Charlie Cobb.

New Home No. 1: Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Melton, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Moore,  
Christine Lane, Betty Middleton.

Springfield: T. J. Hill, C. F. Helm.

Bellview: Mr. and Mrs. David Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. Pearl Brown, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Brown, Effie Kimbrel, Inez Brunson.

Hammock Springs: Mr. and Mrs. Z. R. Jones, R. R. Williams, Ira L. Barber, Hilton Lynn, Hubert Grant.

Thompson: Mrs. Calvin Floyd, Mrs. Clifton Powell, Mrs. Eurell Tiner, G. R. Grimes.

New Home No. 2: Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Knight, Mr. and Mrs. David Brock.

Hebrew: Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Rhidlehoover, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Shelley, Mrs. Perry Braswell.

Mother's Home: T. I. Crawford, John Bailey, Will Darley, Will Floyd.  
Mt. Gilead: Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Smith, R. G. Vickers, Mrs. Minnie Boyd.  
Highway: Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Scott, W. H. Brogdon.  
Pilgrim's Home: Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hilburn, Espy McNeal.  
Mt. Glory: A. W. Wade, Young Thursby, Riley Taylor.  
Cool Springs: Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Blunt, Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Smith,  
Mrs. B. C. Roberts.

Father's Home: Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Wisham, Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Shiver,  
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Hooks, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Sellers.

Colquitt: Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Phillips, H. J. Runnels.

Polar Branch: W. J. Morris, Osie Morris, Della McAlphin.

Evergreen: Mrs. Howard Corley, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Holt, Mrs. Primus

Petitionary letters were called for and two were received as follows:

River Turn: Robert Cunningham, B. B. Barber, W. V. Weathers, Mrs.  
Lillie Mae Barber.

New Light: Lillian Braswell, Sam Braswell.

The motion was moved and carried that these two churches be received in the Martin Association and that the Moderator extend the right hand of Christian Fellowship to these delegates.

Correspondence from other Associations was called for and given as follows:

Salem Association: Rev. I. O. Cook.

Union Association: Rev. W. A. Sellers, Rev. K. V. Shutes.

Midway Association: Rev. E. C. Williams, Rev. H. L. Roberts, Rev. C. J. Harvey, Mrs. Myrtle Sanders, Mrs. Loyle Philips, Alvin Day, W. B. Griffin, Rev. J. B. Lovering, Jim Williams, Alton Mercer, Rev. J. L. Tedder.

State Line Association: G. H. Jordon, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Jones, Rev. G. W. Nobles, Maxwell Sims, Thurmond Drinkwater.

Cumberland Association: Rev. and Mrs. Adam Scott.

There were nineteen preachers present at this session.

Reports of all standing boards and committees were called for and given as follows:

Mrs. Inez Brunson gave an oral report on the Mission Board.

Mrs. R. R. Williams reported orally on the Promotional Education Board. She reported \$89.66 in the treasury.

An oral report on the Superannuation Board was made by W. J. Hilburn.

A report was called for from the Investigating Committee; there was no report.

There was no report from the Executive Committee.

The following Sessional Committees were appointed:

Arrangements: Pastor and Deacons of New Salem Church.

Suggestions: W. C. Ivey, John Bailey, Rev. F. W. Sellers.

Sunday School: Rev. C. A. Gilbert, Mrs. Mary Brown, Mrs. Gertrude Lane.



Sabbath Observance: J. B. Holt, Mrs. Annie Tully, Rev. L. D. Scott.

Resolutions: T. A. Drake, O. F. Everson, E. D. Scott.

Nominations: Mrs. Effie Kimbrel, C. F. Helms, Mrs. C. A. Lane.

Obituaries: Rev. W. H. Horn, Mrs. Joe Powell, J. C. Rhidlehoover.

Temperance: Rev. Drew Floyd, Mrs. Roy Barber, Rev. B. W. Clenney.

Upon request, Hammock Springs Church was granted a letter of commendation and dismissal in good standing with this Association.

The Arrangement Committee made a report and the Association was adjourned until 9:30 Saturday morning.

## SATURDAY SESSION, Oct. 21st, 1951

The Saturday morning session of the Martin Association was opened at 9:30 with devotional by Mrs. C. C. Kimbrel, Psalms 8:16 and James 4:6.

The call for correspondence was renewed with two Associations being heard from:

Chattahoochee Association: Rev. and Mrs. H. J. Kelley.

Progressive Association: Rev. W. H. Ryland.

All visiting Brothers and Sisters were invited to be seated with us.

The roll was called and the minutes of the preceedings Fridays meeting were read.

The Church Decorum, Association Constitution and Articles of Faith were read.

Ministerial reports were called for. Oral reports were made by Rev. B. W. Clenney and Rev. W. A. Addison. Rev. H. L. Catrett submitted a written report. (see reports.)

Reports of State and National Associations were called for. Rev. B. W. Clenney gave the State report and Rev. W. H. Ryland gave the National report.

Reports of all Sessional Committees were called for. (see reports.)

The 11:00 o'clock sermon was delivered by Rev. W. H. Ryland with text taken from Luke 19:3. An offering was taken for the Orphanage totaling \$112.68.

The Association was dismissed for the noon hour.

The afternoon devotional was given by Mrs. Minnie Boyd at 1:30 P.M.

Delegates were appointed to corresponding Associations as follows:

Midway: Rev. D. Floyd, Rev. B. W. Clenney.

Union: Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Everson and Rev. B. W. Clenney to meet at the Springfield Church, 7 miles north of Sales City, on Wednesday and Thursday before the 4th Sunday in October 1952.

Chattahoochee: Rev. H. L. Catrett, Rev. W. H. Horn and Bro. A. B. Newberry to attend New Prospect Church, on Friday and Saturday before the 1st Sunday in October 1952.

Salem of Florida: Rev. L. D. Scott, Rev. W. A. Addison to meet with New Hope Church, 6 miles east of Greenwood, on Friday and Saturday before the 1st Sunday in October 1952.

State Line: to attend Howard Grove Church and Cowarts Creek Church, 4 miles south of Ashford, Ala., on Friday and Saturday before the 2nd Sunday in October 1952.

All standing committees were appointed.

Mrs. B. W. Clenney, Mrs. Pete Davis and Mrs. Eva Middleton were appointed as delegates to the State Association which will convene with Glennville Church, Glennville, Ga. on Nov. 10-11, 1951.

W. E. Lane was appointed as delegate to the National Association. Counce Sheffield was appointed alternate.

Rev. H. L. Catrett was elected Moderator.

W. E. Lane was elected Secretary and Treasurer.

The body extended a rising vote of thanks to New Salem Church and community.

The Association was adjourned to meet with Corinth Church, 2 miles northwest of Iron City, Ga., on Friday and Saturday before the 4th Sunday in October 1952.

Rev. H. L. Catrett, Moderator  
W. E. Lane, Secy.-Treas.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

-:- DISBURSEMENT COMMITTEE -:-

We recommend the following Disbursements:

Clerk - - - - -	\$25.00
Moderator - - - - -	15.00
State Association - - - - -	10.00
National Association - - - - -	5.00
Retain for emergencies - - - - -	50.00
Minutes to be paid for and remainder to be allocated as follows:	
State Secretary - - - - -	25%
Local Superannuation Board - - - - -	30%
Christian Education Board - - - - -	25%
F.W.B. Orphanage, Eldridge, Alabama - - - - -	20%

O. F. Everson, Chairman  
W. R. Barber  
E. D. Scott

**-:- TREASURER'S REPORT -:-**

Balance on hand from 1950 - - - - -	\$ 12.66
Received from Credential Committee - - - - -	321.25
Total Receipts - - - - -	\$333.91
Disbursements:	
Moderator - - - - -	\$ 15.00
Clerk - - - - -	25.00
Program Leaflets - - - - -	5.00
Promotional State Secretary - - - - -	44.06
Local Superannuation Board - - - - -	52.87
Christian Education - - - - -	44.06
F.W.B. Orphanage, Eldridge, Alabama - - - - -	35.25
State and National dues - - - - -	15.00
Minutes - - - - -	97.67
Total Disbursements - - - - -	\$333.91
Balance in Treasury - - - - -	\$000.00

*W. E. Lane, Secy.-Treas.*

**-:- MINISTERIAL REPORT -:-**

For the year beginning Nov. 1, 1950 and ending Oct. 25, 1951, I have pastored the following churches: Pilgrim's Home, Highway, Mt. Gilead and Live Oak.

I held eight revivals, 10 weeks singing school, 2 weeks Bible study, conducted 52 funerals, baptized 27 and traveled approximately 5,000 miles.

Your humble servant,  
*H. L. Catrett*

**-:- MISSION BOARD REPORT -:-**

Sent Rev. K. V. Shutes - - - - -	\$26.00
Sent Rev. E. C. Morris - - - - -	33.86

*Mrs. B. O. Brunson  
O. F. Everson  
R. R. Williams*



**-:- RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE -:-**

We, your Resolutions Committee, beg to make the following recommendations: That the following changes in the 1950 minutes of this Association be changed as follows:

- (1) Page 13, paragraph 3 in the Associational Decorum to read, 'The Moderator and Clerk shall officiate until their successors are elected.
- (2) Page 13, paragraph 1 in the Associational Decorum to read, 'The Association shall be called to order by the Moderator elected last session.
- (3) Page 21, paragraph 4 in the Associational Constitution to read, 'The officers of the Association shall consist of a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer to be chosen annually for the next year and to be elected by ballot or anyway the Association deems proper.
- (4) We recommend Rev. W. H. Horn be put on the Ordaining Council for a period of 3 years, to succeed Rev. D. Floyd whose term has expired.
- (5) We recommend that the Clerk be paid \$25.00 and the Moderator \$15.00 for their services.

Resolve that this body extend their thanks to New Salem Church and community for their generous hospitality shown us during this session.

*T. A. Drake  
O. F. Everson  
E. D. Scott*

**-:- SUGGESTION COMMITTEE -:-**

We, the Suggestion Committee, suggest that when a man feels he has been called to preach and decides he should ask for a license, he should be granted a license for a period of twelve months time; and if he proves successful, the church in which he belongs should renew his license at his request.

We also suggest that when a preacher should have an occasion to be absent, or isn't present when some business should come up to be taken care of, it should become a deacon's duty to act in the pastor's place.

*W. C. Ivey  
John Bailey  
Rev. Forrest Sellers*

## **-:- SABBATH OBSERVANCE COMMITTEE -:-**

We, the Sabbath Observance Committee, submit the following:

That each church have some kind of faith program to entertain the young people.

Parents should not send their children to church and Sunday school but take them.

Stay away from picture shows and ball games on the Sabbath by serving the Lord; for he tells us to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

*Rev. L. D. Scott*

*Mrs. J. W. Tully*

*Bro. J. B. Holt*

## **-:- SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE -:-**

We earnestly pray for God to hasten the day when our ministry can say with the Apostle Paul; "Where unto I am appointed a preacher, and an Apostle, and a teacher to the Gentile," II Tim. 1:11. There is a teaching ministry as well as a preaching ministry. Therefore, when the pastor of each local church awakens to this fact, and begins to organize Sunday Schools in his congregations, we will see better churches, homes and communities.

I John 2:3 says, "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments." The Apostle Paul commanded Timothy to, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Tim. 2:15.

So let us meet together and study the word of God and teach it more diligently to our boys and girls in our Sunday schools.

*Rev. C. A. Gilbert*

*Mrs. W. E. Lane*

*Mrs. Mary Brown*

## **-:- TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE -:-**

We, your committee on temperance, beg to submit the following:

We think our churches should be temperant in all things. But most of all, let us be temperant in the things we say. Intemperance in conversation is the most harmful thing we know.

"And add to knowledge temperance." 11 Peter 1:6.

*Rev. D. Floyd, Chairman*

*Rev. B. W. Clenney*

*Mrs. Roy Barber*

**-:- COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES -:-**

We regret very much to learn that since our last Association 19 of our beloved members have been claimed by death. They are as follows:

New Salem: MRS. SALLIE DANIELS  
MRS. MARY TURNER  
MRS. DREW DAVIS  
MRS. NORA PHILLIPS

Bellview: MR. G. L. CLEVELAND  
MRS. BILL DUNN  
MRS. ANNIE HAIRE  
MRS. FANNIE PATE  
MRS. LAURA EVERETT

New Home No. 2: SISTER ZOU BROCK  
SISTER ANNIE BROADWAY  
REV. A. J. TOMLINSON

Evergreen: BRO. DECK MOYE

Highway: BRO. VINCENT KELLY

New Home No. 1: BRO. J. C. ROBERTS  
SISTER GERTRUDE MILLER

Father's Home: SISTER G. W. WISHAM, SR.

Pilgrim's Home: MR. E. P. McNEAL  
MRS. W. O. MUSGROVE

*W. H. Horn*

*J. O. Powell*



**-:-:- OBITUARY -:-:-**

In March 1951, Brother A. J. Tomlinson passed to his reward. Brother Tomlinson was our pastor of New Home No. 2 for more than thirty years and in his passing we lose one of our greatest leaders and one whose loyalty to the church and its cause made him one of the most beloved men of our community.

Although being unable from the start of his illness to carry on any conversation, he could be heard plainly to speak words of praise to God. To us his passing is a great loss but we know it is Heavens gain and we yield to Him who doeth all things well.



**-:- BOARD MEETING -:-**

The different Boards of the Martin Association met at New Home Church No. 1 on December 15, 1951 with the purpose of getting organized for the year 1952.

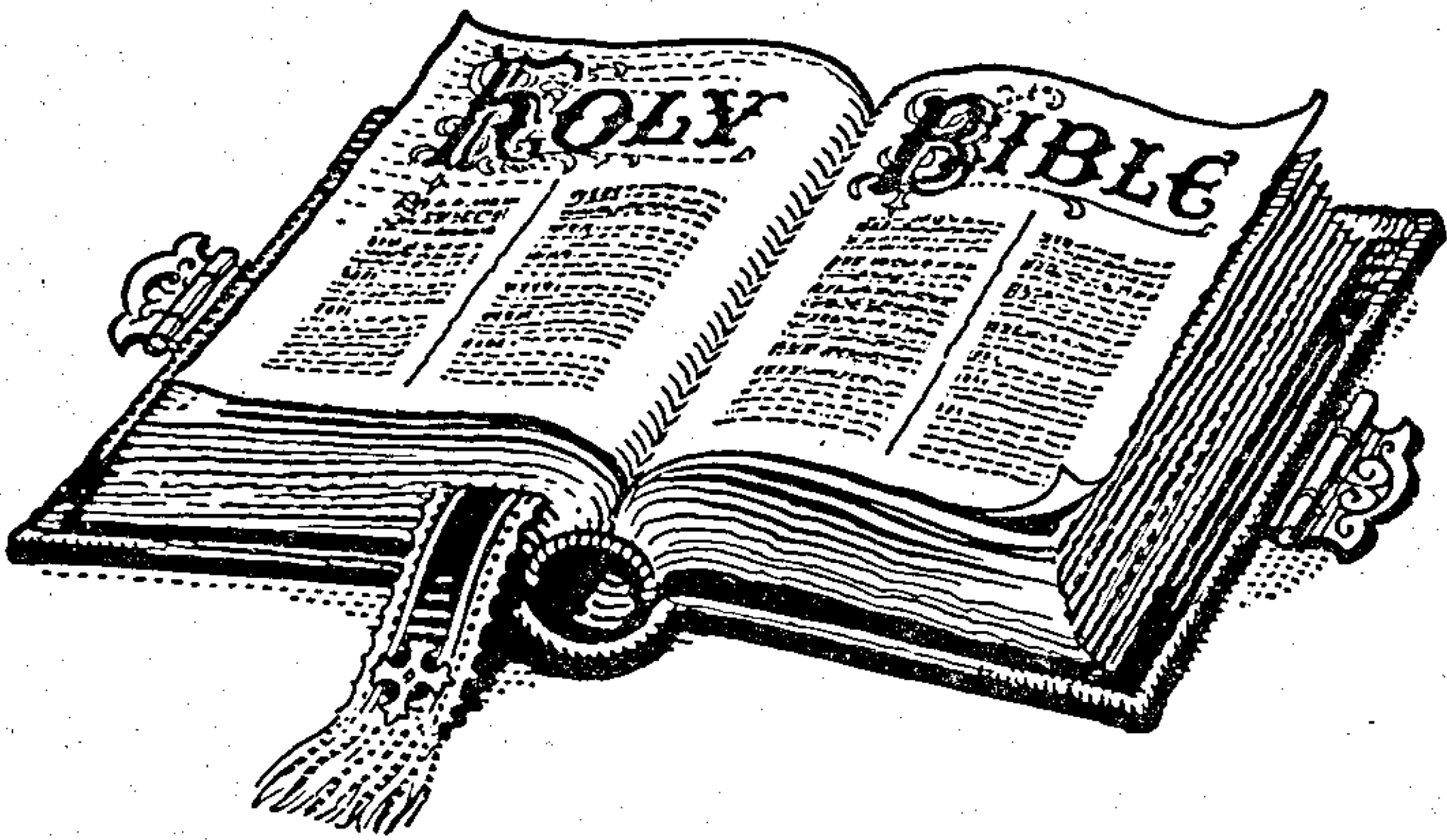
The meeting was called to order by Moderator H. L. Catrett, Brother T. I. Crawford led in prayer.

The motion was moved and carried that letters of protest be sent the President of the United States and 3 senators, protesting sending a representative of the United States to the Vatican in Rome, Italy.

The motion was moved and carried that another Board meeting be held on Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in September 1952 at Mother's Home Church with Rev. H. L. Catrett to preach at 11:00 o'clock.

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned with prayer by Rev. W. H. Horn.

*Rev. H. L. Catrett, Moderator*  
*W. E. Lane, Secy.-Treas.*



## DOCTRINAL VIEWS

1. We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is a treasure of Heavenly instruction that has a God for its author, salvation for its end and truth without mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and therefore, it shall remain with us to the end of time, the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard to which all human conduct and opinion should conform.

2. That there is but one true God, whose name is Jehovah the maker and ruler of Heaven and earth, inexpressively glorious in holiness, worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love, revealed in the personal distinction of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

3. That man was created in a state of holiness under the laws of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which men are sinners, not by constraint, but by choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan and their sinful passions and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defence or excuse.

4. That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the mediation of the Son of God, who took upon him our nature; yet without sin honored the law by His personal obedience, and made atonement for sin by His death; being risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven and uniting in His Wonderful person the tender sympathies with divine perfection, in every way qualified to be a suitable compassionate and all sufficient Savior.

5. That the great gospel blessings which Christ of His fullness bestows on such as believe on Him is justification; that justification consists in the pardon of sin and promise of eternal life upon principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of anything which we have done, but solely through His own righteousness and atonement, and that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God.

6. That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to receive them by a cordial and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ which results will subject him to aggravated condemnation.

7. That in order to be saved we must be regenerated or born again. That regeneration consists of giving a holy disposition to the

mind, and is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit producing a voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruits which we bring forth to God.

8. That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners. That being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all means with the end, that it is a most glorious display of God's goodness, being infinitely wise, holy, unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of His free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance, and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

9. That the preserving attachment of true believers to Christ the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

10. That the law of God is the eternal, unchangeable rule of His government; that it is holy, just and good, that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen man to fulfill the precepts arise entirely from their love of sin to deliver them from which and to restore them through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the Holy law is one design of the Gospel and the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

11. That the first day of the week is the Lord's day or Christian Sabbath; that it should be kept sacred to religious purposes by abstaining from all secular labor and recreation by the direct observance of all means of grace, both public and private, and prepare for the rest which remains for the people of God.

12. That civil government is of divine appointment for the interest of order of human society; that the magistrates are to be prayed for conscientiously; honored and obeyed in all things not contrary to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Lord of conscience and Prince of the kings of the earth.

13. That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and wicked, and that such only are justified by faith in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and is sanctified by the spirit of God as are truly righteous in His esteem while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are, in His sight, wicked and under the curse and this distinction holds good among men, both in and after death.

14. That the end of this world is approaching when Christ will



descend from the Heaven and raise the dead from their graves to final retribution, that solemn separation will then take place, the righteous being adjudged to everlasting happiness and the wicked to endless punishment and his judgment will forever fix the final state of men in Heaven or Hell on principles of righteousness.—John 5:25; Matt. 25:31; 41:46.

### **ASSOCIATIONAL DECORUM**

1. The Association shall be called to order by the moderator elected last session.
2. This Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.
3. The moderator and clerk shall officiate until their successors are elected.
4. It shall be the duty of the moderator to call the meeting to order, to see that order is preserved, receive and submit all questions to the body. He shall have the privilege of speaking but must call upon some other brother to preside in his place while speaking. He shall not have the right to vote unless the body is equally divided, when he may cast the deciding vote.
5. The members present shall be enrolled and their names called as often as necessary.
6. The majority of the members present shall rule in cases, except upon admission of new churches, which shall require a unanimous vote.
7. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave from the moderator, and no member shall leave the association without the consent of the body.
8. All business shall be brought before the body by a move and second and shall be disposed of according to good usage.
9. No person shall be allowed to speak more than three times on the same subject nor more than fifteen minutes each time without permission from the body.
10. No person shall be disturbed while speaking unless he departs from the subject and it will be necessary to call him to order.
11. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at a time and he must rise to his feet and address the moderator and must not use abusive language or personal reflection on any one without being subject to a call to order by the moderator.

12. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a minute of the proceedings and read the same when called upon, to be corrected at the discretion of the body, and shall prepare the minutes for publication, unless the association shall appoint someone for that purpose. He shall keep all books and papers belonging to the association and read the same when ordered to do so, and shall have such compensation for his services as the association may prescribe.

13. It shall be the duty of the corresponding secretary to carry on correspondence by writing to persons belonging to other associations of like faith in any way that would be likely to create interest in this association for its promotion and well being.

14. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to keep all money committed to him by the association, and to keep an account of receipts and expenditures, make a report at every association if called upon, pay out money when ordered to do so by the association, and shall receive such compensation as the association may prescribe.

15. These rules of decorum may be amended at the discretion of the association.

### **CHURCH DECORUM**

1. The church may choose a pastor annually at the last regular conference in association year; or if they prefer it may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time to continue from year to year, as long as they deem it proper to keep up the connection.

2. When it becomes necessary, a pastor may be chosen at another time; but if the choice be made at a special conference, the time must be appointed at a monthly meeting of the church.

3. The pastor shall be the moderator of the church, but when he is absent or does not sit as moderator, being present, some suitable brother shall be appointed to sit in his place.

4. There shall be two or more deacons in the church whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and disbursement of the contributions made by the church for the pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and wine in the administration of the Lord's supper.

5. The deacons shall take notice of such members as refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's supper and endeavor to ascertain the cause, that the same may be laid before the church in conference if necessary.

6. Some suitable member shall be appointed clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and other writing pertaining to the business of the church and to preserve a file of the minutes of the association.

7. When a new clerk is appointed all the books, etc belonging to the clerk shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor.

8. When a church deems it necessary, a committee of not less than three male members well acquainted with business, shall be appointed, whose duty it shall be to give advice to brethren who apply to them relative to cases of dealings and etc.

9. The church shall hold two days meetings monthly, embracing Saturday and the Lord's day following the first of which shall be the regular time of conference.

10. It shall be the duty of every member, male or female, to attend each conference meeting if they can, for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in special manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and the rule of holy living.

11. Any male member, who shall fail to attend three successive conferences, and any member whatever who may be generally remiss in attending the meetings of the church according to the covenant (Article 10), shall be cited to appear in conference and answer for his neglect, but the church may exempt members from this rule if necessary.

12. Conference, after prayer or divine service shall be opened as follows: (1) Inviting visiting brethren to seat. (2) Opening the door of the church for the reception of members. (3) Calling for the reading of the minutes of the last conference. (4) Calling for absentees. (5) For acknowledgements. (6) For references or deferred business. (7) For new matters of dealings, which are to come before the body. (8) For miscellaneous business.

13. Visiting brethren, as help called in from sister churches, shall be allowed to speak and make motions and seconds, but not allowed to vote.

14. Any orderly member of the Baptist Church may be received into the church without letter, when it is made apparent that his Christian character is unimpeachable, and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desired to join this or some sister church. All other members must join by letter or baptism.

15. No member shall be received without the unanimous consent of the members present, but unreasonable objections shall not be valid and unless withdrawn the member who makes them shall be liable to be taken under dealings by the church.

16. When the moderator calls for absentees, the clerk shall inform the church what members have been absent from three successive conferences, and the moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite each of them to the next conference.



17. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing, to attend his trial; provided his residence be known to the church.

18. When a witness, not a member of the church, is introduced, he shall not be examined till the question has been put to the church: "Will you hear the testimony of this witness?"

19. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgment shall be minuted in the church book.

20. Members dismissed from the church by letter who becomes disorderly or continue to hold their letters without a good reason, shall be cited to the conference to answer for their conduct.

21. Expelled members may be restored to fellowship on their petition if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented of their former evil conduct.

22. A vote shall not be taken upon any question without a move and a second, and in all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.

23. No motion shall be made while a move and second is before the conference.

24. It shall be considered disorderly for any member to absent himself from conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member, upon his request, may be exempted from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

25. No member shall leave the house during conference without a sufficient cause, nor engage in conversation or whispering without being subject to be called to order by the moderator.

26. All discussions in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling; those who speak must rise to their feet and address the moderator, and keep to the point in debate.

27. No one shall speak more than three times on the same motion without permission from the moderator, nor shall the remarks of any one be unreasonably long.

28. When the moderator speaks in debate he must nominate some brethren moderator in his stead.

29. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it is necessary to call him to order.

30. It shall be the rule of the church to attend to the administration of the Lord's supper and foot washing at least four times a year, and the expenses are to be paid by the church.

31. Members not in good standing shall not commune, but the administration shall not be deferred on account of any ordinary matter of dealing.

32. Public fasting, humiliation and prayer shall be observed on proper occasions.

33. It shall be the duty of the pastor to take up collections quarterly for the support of the home mission work.

34. It shall be the duty of each church to appoint a committee to revise the church book once a year.

35. This decorum may be altered or amended by the vote of two-thirds of the members present at any two successive monthly conferences.

### **ARTICLES OF FAITH**

1. **THE SCRIPTURE.** The Scripture of the old and the New Testaments were given by the inspiration of God, and are binding on all as or only rule of faith and practice. There is only one living and true God. infinite in all of His attributes; the Creator, Preserver and Governor of the Universe, revealed to us in the Scriptures as Father, Son and Spirit.

2. **CHRIST.** He is God manifest in the flesh, being in His divine nature true, God, in His human nature true man, united in the person of Messiah as the mediator for the redemption of the world.

3. **THE HOLY SPIRIT.** He possesses all personal divine attributes belonging to the Reformer, Comforter and Sanctifier of men.

4. **DIVINE PURPOSE AND PROVIDENCE.** The purposes of God are eternal and immutable, and His Wise and Holy Providence is over all things to secure His only glory and the highest welfare of all creatures.

5. **ORIGINAL STATE AND FALL OF MAN.** Man was created upright, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. All his posterity inherits his fallen nature, which is cherished by indulgence so all who come to years of moral accountability, sin and come short of the glory of God.

6. **THE ATONEMENT.** Christ in His great compassion offered Himself as a sacrifice in our stead, and those by His life, suffering and death, made an atonement which is full and free to all, and opens the only way to salvation.

7. **GRACE.** No one can by his own work merit, obtain salvation

which is wholly of the grace of God, and through which all spiritual blessings are bestowed upon us.

8. **CONDITION OF SALVATION.** These are repentances implying Godly sorrow for open concessions and other renunciations of sin, faith or the unreserved committal of the mind and heart to receive, obey and trust in Christ, regeneration by the Holy Spirit, whereby the soul is freed from the dominion of sin and brought into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

9. **ELECTION.** God has not fixed the future state of man by any unconditional decree, but determined from the beginning to save all who could comply with the conditions of salvation.

10. **PERSERVANCE.** None will be finally saved but those who, through grace, preserve in holiness.

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. **THE FREEDOM OF THE WILL.** The human will is not controlled by any fatal necessity or external force, but is free and self-determined, having power to yield to gracious influences or resist them and perish.

13. **GOSPEL ORDINANCES.** Baptism or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's supper are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel or universal obligation and to be administered to all true believers.

14. **THE SABBATH.** The Christian Sabbath is a divine institution binding on all, and should be observed by abstaining from all secular business, amusements and consecrated to the worship of God and to spiritual improvement.

15. **THE RESURRECTION.** Final judgment and final retribution—Christ will make His second appearance at the end of the world, when the dead will be raised, the judgment will set, the righteous will be received to eternal blessedness, and the wicked banished to endless suffering.

## **GOVERNMENT AND ORDINANCES**

1. We believe that the Gospel church, or a church of Christ is a congregation of Christians constituted and governed according to the rules laid down in the New Testament.

2. That these rules require churches to preserve the form of gov-



ernment and ordinances of the first Christian churches, and to be composed of baptized believers in Christ.

3. That the visible church is the aggregate or whole number of Gospel churches, and that the invisible church is composed of the redeemed now in Heaven; and of such Christians now on earth as are not attached to the visible; according to the Gospel rules.

4. That the establishment of a central or Catholic government over the visible church or any part thereof is a device of earthly ambition repugnant to the word of God and subversive to the churches and dangerous to the liberties of men.

5. That the Gospel churches are the only ecclesiastical bodies or tribunals authorized by the Scripture; that each church has the unrestricted right to administer its own government without supervision or interference, being under Christ essentially independent and absolute and that if this right is surrendered to a superintending jurisdiction by delegation or otherwise the assembly ceases to be a gospel church.

6. That churches may nevertheless, meet by delegates, form an association and declare the terms upon which they will keep up a friendly correspondence but that the rights and authority of the churches being inalienable are in no wise compromised by or hindered by entering into an association, therefore associations have no shadow of authority over churches or individuals, their only powers being to transact business which does not pertain to churches in their ecclesiastical capacity, or to promote mutual intercourse and concentration of voluntary effort, and to give that advice to churches which might with equal authority be given by an individual.

7. That the authority of churches are designated for the perpetuation of the true religion of the Gospel and for the preservation of a pure and orderly body of Christians on earth, that is fully sufficient for the purpose intended, but it does not extend to the person's property or consciences of men in any case whatever.

8. That the only requisites to church membership are faith in Christ and obedience to the Gospel, that faith in Christ necessarily exists in connection with the belief in the fundamental truths of Christianity, and to prescribe any other requisites of church membership is an assumption on the part of the church and a departure from the plan of the Gospel.

9. That the officers of the church are elders and deacons; that elders are also called bishops or pastors; that all elders are equal in rank; though they may perform different functions since some may be

bishops or pastors of a particular church, while others may be simply elders, having no pastoral charge.

10. That the authority of a minister of the Gospel extends to teaching, exhortation and rebuke, but no further, that he can not perform any act which belongs to the authority of the church, such as the reception of members into the church compact, of the expulsion of offenders, that as member of the church he is no more than any other member, and if he is guilty of transgression he is to be brought to trial before his brethren and convicted or acquitted in the same manner as if he were a private person; yet we think it prudent and proper to call in advisory help, especially if the minister is to be tried upon a charge of heresy.

11. That Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

12. That the Lord's upper is an ordinance to be observed in the church till the Lord comes.

13. The elders and deacons must be set apart to their office by ordination, by the imposition of the hands of the presbytery and prayer, without which they are not authorized to administer the ordinances pertaining to their respective offices.

### **ASSOCIATIONAL CONSTITUTION**

1. A church proper in its lowest sense is a body of Christians united and congregated together for the purpose of worshiping God and promoting His cause, and in which the Gospel is regularly preached; the ordinances duly administered and the principles of holiness encouraged and practiced. Each church or body thus formed is a separate part thereof and independent in itself; possessing the right to direct its own affairs in its own way, subject only in certain difficult cases to arbitrate by sister churches. Such churches may, however, unite in associational capacity for purposes of more thorough organization, efficient work and for general and mutual good of all without surrendering any of their individual rights. Therefore, the churches here in-after mentioned resolve themselves into a body ecclesiastic to be known as the Martin Association of Free Will Baptist which shall meet annually at such time and place as may be agreed upon by the body at its annual meeting.

2. The association, when assembled, shall be composed of all

ministers of the association, both ordained and licentiates, and the delegates or messengers chosen by the several churches from time to time for that purpose.

3. The number of delegates to be determined by the membership of the respective churches. To simplify this we will state that any church is entitled to two delegates, it matters not how few members it may have. That after it has attained fifty members it shall then be entitled to one more delegate to every twenty-five members or fractional part thereof, until it has reached one hundred; then for every fifty, or fractional part thereof and go on increasing in its ratio to any number.

4. The officers of the Association shall consist of a moderator, clerk and treasurer to be chosen annually for the next year and to be elected by ballot or anyway the Association deems proper.

5. It shall be the duty of the moderator to preside over the body during the session for which he is elected, call the session to order, enforce the rules of the decorum, decide all questions of discipline, and in case of a tie, to cast the deciding vote.

6. It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep an accurate record of the business transactions of the association, superintend the printing of the minutes and draw on the treasurer for the funds to discharge the expense of the same: He shall hold office until his successor is elected and installed, and shall receive such compensation for his services as the association may deem proper to allow.

7. There shall be an executive committee of discreet brethren appointed annually by the moderator, or elected by the body who shall properly be the association in recess, and whose duty may be more fully defined from time to time by the association. The treasurer shall be one of the number.

8. When the association is assembled a majority of all the members enrolled shall be required to form a quorum for the transaction of business.

9. All debates shall be conducted in a Christian like and brotherly spirit. All shall be allowed the privilege of speaking on any question which is submitted to the consideration of the body.



10. Every speaker shall rise to his feet, address the moderator, and keep to the question in debate, and shall avoid all unpleasant reflections and personalities.

11. No brother shall be allowed to consume more than fifteen minutes in one speech, or speak more than twice on the same subject except by permission of the moderator or body.

12. All questions shall be submitted by move and second the first motion taking precedence in point of order. Every motion seconded must be acted upon, unless withdrawn by the mover.

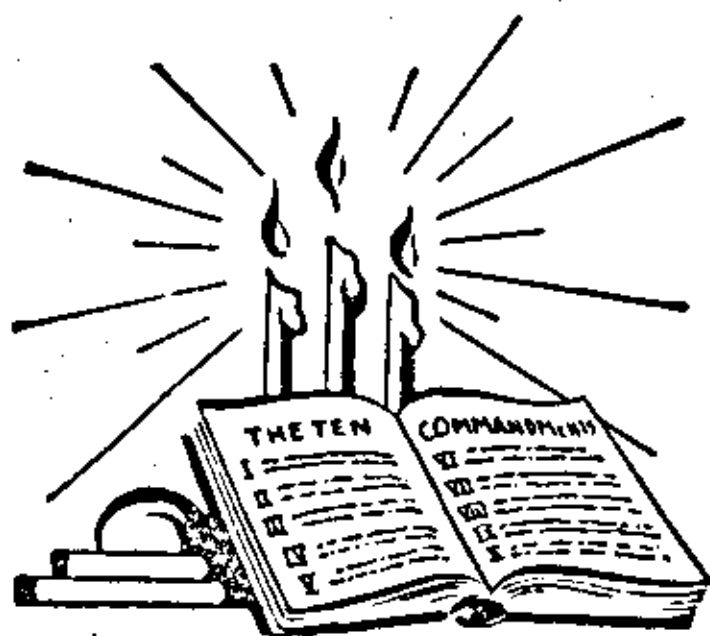
13. The business shall be taken up in order according to the subjoined plan, unless it becomes necessary to suspend the regular rules for a time for purposes which appear proper.

14. The moderator shall, at each session, invite corresponding delegates from other bodies of our own order, and also ministers from other denominations to seats, when thus seated shall be entitled to the friendship of honorary members.

### **ASSOCIATIONAL COVENANT**

Having been, we trust, brought together to organize an association; by divine grace to embrace our Lord Jesus Christ, to give ourselves up wholly to Him, with all humility and brotherly love; to watch over each other for good, and stir up each other to love and good work, and not forsaking the frequent assembling of ourselves together with our neighbors to worship God according to His revealed will, as occasion may require; to warn, rebuke and admonish each other according to the rules of the Gospel, that the knowledge may be thereby promoted to the end. We will uphold the public worship of God and the ordinances of His house, and hold constant communion with each other therein; and we will cheerfully contribute of our property for the maintenance of a faithful minister of the Gospel among us and for the extension of the blessed Redeemer's kingdom among us universally. We will not omit family and close religion at home nor allow ourselves in the too common neglect of the great and important duty of religiously training our children for the service of God and the enjoyment of heaven. We will also sympathize with each other in seasons of temptation and affliction and be ready to distribute to the necessities of the saints. We will especially pray for and with each other for the churches un-

iversally, for the promised effusion of the Holy Spirit, for the prosperity of Zion, and the ingathering of the elect and may the God of Peace, who brought again from the dead, our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the Sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do His will, that we may not only enjoy a name and place in the church on earth but finally with His glorious church of the first born of Heaven in ascribing blessings, honor, might, majesty to Him who sitteth on the throne and the Lamb forever.





# STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERKS	POST OFFICE	Meeting Days	Rec'd by Letter	Baptised	Restored	Ex. Com.	Dis. by Letter	Died	Total No.	Ass'n Funds	Gave Pastor	Value of Church Property	Sunday School	Prayer Meeting	League	Ladies Aid
Bellview	B. W. Clenney	Mrs. Mary Brown	Colquitt, Ga.	2 & 4	2	5	0	0	13	5	224	\$56.00	\$523.34	\$8,000.00	0	0	0	0
Colquitt	J. B. Lovering	C. A. Williams	Colquitt, Ga.	2 & 4	3	6	0	0	0	0	40	10.00	410.53	5,000.00	Yes	0	0	0
Coolsprings	L. L. Lowe	Mrs. W. A. Blunt	Bainbridge, Ga.	2 & 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	10.00	84.89	1,000.00	Yes	0	0	0
Corinth	D. Floyd	Mrs. C. A. Lane	Iron City, Ga.	2	2	1	0	1	0	2	78	19.50	268.75	5,000.00	Yes	Yes	0	0
Evergreen	Forrest Sellers	J. B. Barnett	Elmodel, Ga.	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	43	4.00	165.06	5,000.00	Yes	Yes	0	0
Father's Home	G. D. Roberts	Mrs. F. W. Sellers	Bainbridge, Ga.	1 & 3	0	1	0	2	0	1	51	12.75	230.00	4,000.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
Friendship	W. H. Horn	Beulah Bowen	Blakely, Ga.	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	5.00	109.00	1,500.00	0	0	0	0
Hammock Springs	G. W. Nobles	Z. R. Jones	Donalsonville, Ga.	2 & 4	0	0	0	5	31	0	23	5.75	460.00	7,500.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hebrew	F. W. Sellers	Walter Atkinson	Donalsonville, Ga.	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	42	9.00	116.55	3,000.00	Yes	Yes	0	0
Highway	H. L. Catrett	L. L. Brogdon	Brinson, Ga.	2	1	0	8	0	0	1	58	14.25	200.00	2,800.00	Yes	Yes	0	0
Mother's Home	D. Floyd	J. R. McNease	Colquitt, Ga.	1 & 3	0	2	0	1	4	0	60	15.00	208.63	3,000.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mt. Gilead	H. L. Catrett	A. R. Smith	Bainbridge, Ga.	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	12.75	279.15	4,000.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
Mt. Glory	I. O. Cook	A. W. Wade	Quincy, Fla.	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	36	20.00	198.00	2,000.00	0	0	0	0
New Home No. 1	J. B. Lumkin	W. E. Lane	Iron City, Ga.	4	0	4	3	0	0	2	116	29.00	334.20	4,000.00	Yes	Yes	0	0
New Home No. 2	L. D. Scott	Dock Kelley	Climax, Ga.	1	0	7	0	0	2	3	81	19.50	130.31	2,500.00	Yes	0	0	0
New Lite	W. H. Horn	Lillian Braswell	Chiefland, Fla.	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	9	?	?	?	Yes	Yes	0	0
New Salem	B. W. Clenney	W. R. Davis	Colquitt, Ga.	1 & 3	0	0	1	0	6	2	179	44.75	465.50	4,600.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pilgrim's Home	H. L. Catrett	J. T. Hilburn	Newton, Ga.	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	44	11.00	174.55	5,000.00	0	0	0	0
Polar Branch	H. E. Creel	J. C. Morris	Greensboro, Fla.	3	0	0	2	1	0	2	17	5.00	107.43	500.00	0	Yes	0	0
River Turn	H. W. Keels	W. C. Ivey	Donalsonville, Ga.	2 & 4	17	0	3	0	0	0	20	7.00	58.82	750.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
Springfield	C. A. Gilbert	C. B. Reese	Jakin, Ga.	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	5.00	66.36	1,250.00	0	0	0	0
Thompson	D. Floyd	G. R. Grimes	Colquitt, Ga.	4	1	1	0	0	4	1	91	22.75	313.91	4,600.00	Yes	0	Yes	0