



MINUTES

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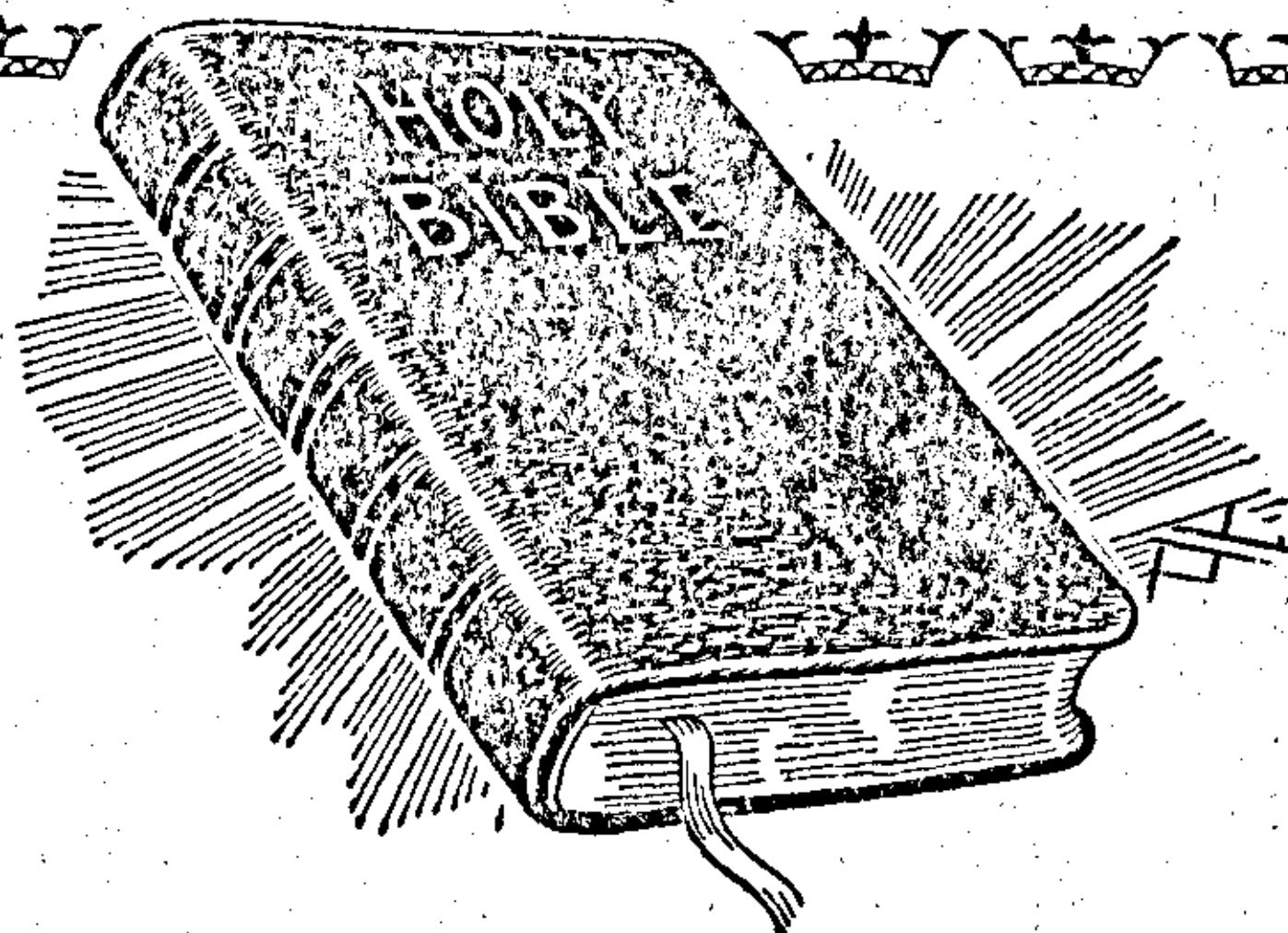
SIXTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

of the

MARTIN FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

held at

MT. GILEAD CHURCH
Bainbridge, Decatur County, Georgia
October 23 and 24, 1953



-- OFFICERS --

REV. H. L. CATRETT, Moderator - - - - - Colquitt, Ga.
C. A. POWELL, Secretary - Treasurer - - - - - Colquitt, Ga.

-- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE --

W. J. HILBURN, Chairman - - - - - 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.

Next session to convene at Pilgrim's Home Church, Newton, Georgia, Baker County on October 23rd and 24th, 1954. Rev. J. E. Wisham, Jr., to preach the Introductory Sermon.

-: Standing Boards and Committees -:

ORDAINING COUNCIL

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

MISSION BOARD

O. F. Everson, Chairman (2 years) - - - - - Walter Phillips (1 year)
Mrs. C. A. Lane, Sec. and Treas. (3 years)

SUPERANNUATION BOARD

Edgar Smith, Chairman (3 years) - - - - - C. T. Turner (2 years)
Mrs. T. I. Crawford, Sec. and Treas. (1 year)

INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE

1 year each: I. M. Ard, Chairman - - - - A. R. Smith - - - - E. S. Tully

PROMOTIONAL BOARD

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

DISBURSEMENT COMMITTEE

O. F. Everson - - - - - W. R. Barber - - - - - Rev. L. D. Scott

ORDAINED MINISTERS

D. Floyd, Colquitt, Ga.	L. D. Scott, Brinson, Ga.
Tom Henry, Colquitt, Ga.	R. W. Holmes, Pelham, Ga.
H. L. Catrett, Colquitt, Ga.	C. A. Gilbert, Colquitt, Ga.
J. E. Wisham, Jr., Camilla, Ga.	A. B. Ard, Bainbridge, Ga.
Lewis Batchelor, Rt. 2, Camilla, Ga.	B. W. Clenney, Rt. 3, Colquitt, Ga.
W. H. Horn, Rt 2, Donalsonville, Ga.	F. W. Sellers, Rt. 3, Bainbridge, Ga.
Edward Sheffield, P.O. Box 301, Donalsonville, Ga.	

LICENSED MINISTERS

C. P. Rump, Camilla, Georgia	Bill Daniels, Colquitt, Ga.
Mrs. Jessie Wisham, Camilla, Ga.	J. A. Ivey, Donalsonville, Ga.

PROCEEDINGS

The 67th Annual Session of the Martin Freewill Baptist Association convened with Mt. Gilead Church, Bainbridge, Decatur County, Georgia, at ten o'clock on Friday morning, October 23rd and 24th, 1953.

After a song service and prayer led by Brother J. L. Tedder, the session was opened with the devotional led by Brother Idus Goocher and taken from Matthew 11:28 and John 9:4.

The welcome address was given by Brother C. M. Smith and response was made by Brother C. A. Williams.

At 10:30 A. M. the Moderator gave his message taken from II Corinthians, 4th Chapter.

The Credential Committee, composed of W. E. Lane, C. B. Reese and Edgar Smith was appointed.

The 11:00 o'clock sermon was given by Rev. L. D. Scott. Text was taken from II Timothy 2:19.

The Association was dismissed for the noon hour.

Rev. Edward Sheffield led in song and prayer. The group was re-assembled at 1:30 o'clock with the devotional led by Mrs. Mary Brown. Her subject was taken from II Peter, 3rd Chapter.

The Credential Committee reported nineteen churches represented in session with a total of \$340.90. The report was received and the delegates were seated with the body.

Mr. W. E. Lane and Mr. C. M. Smith were appointed to read the letters which were as follows:

Mother's Home: Mr. and Mrs. Dock Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. John Bailey, Mrs. J. W. Tully and Mr. Richard McNease.

Father's Home: Brother Ellis Wisham, J. E. Hooks and Sister J. H. Keaton.

Corinth: T. A. Drake, C. C. Bell, Mrs. Frank Smith and Mrs. Bob Smith.

Hebrew: Mr. and Mrs. Walter Capp, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Atkinson and Mr. and Mrs. Edd Hill.

Cool Springs: Mrs. W. W. Blount, T. H. Blount and Mrs. W. A. Blount.

Colquitt: Mrs. Trellie Grimes, Emory Tully and Ada Lee Phillips.

Bellview: Mrs. C. C. Kimbrel, Mr. and Mrs. B. O. Brunson, Mr. and Mrs. T. D. Carter, Mrs. Mable Heard, Mrs. Nellie Brooks, Mrs. Ethel Freeman and Miss Billy Anne Carter.

New Evergreen: Mrs. J. M. Addison, Mrs. J. S. Barnett and Mrs. Hudson Jackson.

Highway: C. T. Turner, E. D. Scott, W. H. Brogdon and A. B. Perry.

New Home No. 1: R. T. Middleton, Ed Sheffield, Bill Daniels, Harry Roberts and Howard Roberts.

New Home No. 2: J. W. Sykes, Jocie Sykes, Clarence Saddler and Mr. and Mrs. Willie Hutto.

Mt. Glory: W. R. Taylor, Mrs. S. D. Newberry and Ethel Newberry.

River Turn: Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Kirkland, Mr. Robert Cunningham.

Pilgrim's Home: Mr. and Mrs. H. E. McNeal, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Player.

Springfield: Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Knight, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Reese.

New Light: Mr. Alvin Braswell, Mr. Bill Braswell.

Thompson: Mr. Edgar Smith, Mr. and Mrs. James Ogg.

New Salem: Mr. and Mrs. Idus Goocher, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Barber, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Newberry, Mr. D. R. Mickle.

Mt. Gilead: Fred Kelly, Leroy Kirkland, Thomas Heard.

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

Union Association: Rev. A. L. Sellers, Rev. K. V. Shutes; next Union Association Session will be held on Wednesday and Thursday before the 4th Sunday in October 1954 at Greenwood Church.

Little River Association: J. J. Gray.

Midway Association: J. L. Tedder, S. T. Shutes, C. J. Harvey; next Midway Association Session will be held Wednesday and Thursday before the 1st Sunday in November 1953 at Traveler's Rest Church in Patmos.

State Association: E. C. Morris.

South Georgia Association: E. C. Morris.

A move was carried that the Moderator extend to these visitors the right hand of Christian fellowship.

Twelve preachers were present at this Session.

Reports of Boards and Committees were called for and given. See reports as listed.

A very inspiring, uplifting and spiritual service was conducted by Rev. C. A. Gilbert Friday night at 7:30 o'clock.

SATURDAY SESSION, October 24th, 1953

The Saturday Morning Session of the Martin Freewill Baptist Association was opened at 9:30 A.M. with a song service. The devotional was led by Sister T. I. Crawford and taken from Hebrew 3.

The call for church letters was renewed and two were received. One was mailed to the Clerk.

The call for correspondence was renewed and given as follows:

Salem of Florida Association: Rev. I. O. Cook, Rev. K. J. Esther; next Salem of Florida Association Session will be held Friday and

Saturday before the 1st Sunday in October 1954 at Christian Church.

Midway Association: J. B. Lovering.

It was moved and carried that the Moderator give these visitors the right hand of Christian fellowship and seat them in the body.

Ministerial reports were called for and oral reports were given by Rev. B. W. Clenney, Rev. L. D. Scott, Rev. Edward Sheffield and Rev. C. A. Gilbert. Rev. H. L. Catrett submitted a written report which is given below.

MINISTERIAL REPORT: Year, Oct. 25, 1952 - Oct. 23, 1953.

I have pastored the following Churches - Pilgrim Home, Mt. Gilead, Live Oak and reinstated Cool Springs Church which I have served about five months.

I held 10 Revivals and 54 funerals; Baptized 13 members; Preached 329 Sermons; traveled 6,480 miles; attended 4 Union Meetings and 2 Associations; performed 22 marriages and attended several special services and rallys.

This is small, but I beg your forgiveness for the past and ask your prayers for the future.

H. L. Catrett.

Rev. E. C. Morris gave a report on the State Unified Program and an offering of \$30.18 was taken for this program.

The 11:00 o'clock message was delivered by Rev. E. C. Morris from II Chronicles 14: 8 verse through remaining Chapter.

The Association was dismissed for the noon hour with prayer by Rev. J. L. Tedder.

The afternoon devotional was given by Rev. Edward Sheffield taken from Matthew 24: 24.

Reports of church committees were called for and given as follows:

Obituaries: Colquitt Church and Pastor.

Temperance: River Turn Church and Pastor.

Resolutions: Pilgrim Home Church and Pastor.

Suggestions: New Evergreen Church and Pastor.

Sabbath Observance: Mt. Glory Church and Pastor.

Sunday Schools: Springfield Church and Pastor.

Delegates listed below were appointed to attend the various Associations as noted:

Midway Association: Wednesday, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hilburn.

Thursday, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Barber.

Union Association: Rev. and Mrs. B. W. Clenney.

Chattahoochee Association at Mt. Olive Church: Rev. H. L. Catrett
and Rev. Edward Sheffield.

Salem of Florida Association: Rev. Edward Sheffield.

State Association: I. J. Goocher, O. F. Everson and T. I. Crawford.

National Association: E. S. Tully.

A move was made and carried for Rev. E. C. Morris to furnish State letter forms from local Churches to the State Association.

Brother W. E. Lane was appointed as key man to collect provisions for Camp Mt. Bethel.

A short memorial service for Rev. W. H. Edwards was held concluded with prayer by Rev. S. T. Shutes.

Rev. H. L. Catrett was elected Moderator and Clifton Powell was elected Clerk.

A rising vote of thanks was extended to Mt. Gilead Church for their hospitality.

The Association adjourned to meet with Pilgrim's Home Church on Friday before the 4th Sunday in October 1954.

Rev. H. L. Catrett, Moderator

Clifton Powell, 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 (Promotional Board) - - - - -	25%
F.W.B. Orphanage, Eldridge, Alabama - - - - -	20%

O. F. Everson, Chairman

W. R. Barber

Rev. L. D. Scott

-- PLANNED 68TH ANNUAL ASSOCIATION SESSION --

The program plans given below are the proposed plans for the 68TH Annual Session of the Martin Freewill Baptist Association to be held at Pilgrim's Home Church, Newton, Georgia, Baker County on October 23rd and 24th, 1954.

Friday, October 23rd, 1954

10:00 A.M. - T. D. Carter.

Welcome address, P. B. Hilburn.

Response, W. E. Lane.

10:30 A.M. - Moderator's message.

Appointment of Credential Committee.

11:00 A.M. - Message by J. E. Wisham, Jr.

12:00 - Noon hour.

1:30 P.M. - Devotional, Inez Brunson.

Report of Credential Committee.

Organization; Petitionary letters.

Call for correspondence.

Report of all Boards: Promotional, Superannuation,
Ordinational, Investigational,
Executive.

Appoint Sessional Committees.

Arrangements and adjournment.

7:30 P.M. - Promotional Board in charge.

Saturday, October 24th, 1954

9:30 A.M. - Devotional, J. C. Swanner.

Renew previous calls.

Roll call.

Reading of minutes.

Report of State and National Associations.

Report of all committees.

11:00 A.M. - Message to be supplied.

12:00 Noon hour.

1:30 P.M. - Devotional, Bill Daniels.

Resume business.

Appoint delegates to various organizational committees.

Appoint State and National Association delegates.

Appointment of standing committees and board members.

Miscellaneous business.

Election of officers.

Adjournment.

Friday the music arrangements will be led by C. A. Williams and on

Saturday B. W. Clenney will be in charge of the musical arrangements.

O. F. Everson
T. A. Drake
Mary Brown

-:- REPORT OF SUPERANNUATION FUNDS -:-

ASSETS:

Cash on hand from 1952	\$13.40
Association Funds, W. L. Lane	42.72
November 1952 Union Meeting	28.00
March 1953 Union Meeting	25.55
May 1953 Union Meeting	30.00
Total Received	\$139.67

DISBURSEMENTS:

Superannuation Fund, Dec. 11, 1952	\$67.00
Funds paid out, March 1953	25.00
Funds paid out, May 1953	42.00
Funds for postage, etc.	1.37
Total Paid	135.37

BALANCE in Treasury \$4.30

Mrs. Willie Mae Haire

-:- RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE -:-

We, the committee on Resolutions, submit the following recommendations:

- (1) Resolved that a church and its pastor be appointed to serve on each of the following committees: Suggestions, Sunday School, Sabbath Observance, Resolutions, Obituaries and Temperance.
- (2) We suggest that Rev. L. D. Scott be placed back on the Ordaining Council for a period of three years.
- (3) We recommend that the Clerk be paid \$25.00 and the Moderator \$15.00 for their services.
- (4) We recommend all Freewill Baptist Churches to use Freewill Baptist Ministers in their Revivals.
- (5) Resolved that this body extend a rising vote of thanks to Mt. Gilead Church and community for their generous hospitality shown us during this session.

Thompson Church and Pastor

-:- SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE -:-

We, your committee on Sunday Schools, believe each church should realize the importance of a good Sunday School and work toward same.

We know Sunday School is the teaching center of the Church. From our youth, we look to it as a source of studying the Bible to learn its meanings.

We recommend, if you do not have a Sunday School in your Church, you organize one and keep the light brightly burning for the little children on life's journey.

We believe the officers and teachers should be chosen from Christians with the confidence of the church and community and a spirit of genuine interest in each phase of church work with respect for the personality of all.

We strongly recommend each church to see that some of the children and officers take advantage of opportunities afforded for them in our Youth Camp and that much prayer and effort be made to secure a more spiritual leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

Bellview Church and Pastor

-:- SABBATH OBSERVANCE COMMITTEE -:-

We urge each and every Christian to attend church on the Sabbath and that they keep the Sabbath a Holy Day dedicated to God.

When Christians observe the Sabbath as a Holy Day, they are benefited in many ways. They enjoy Christian Fellowship and love; they gain a clearer knowledge of God's love and God's will; they become better citizens of their country and better neighbors in their communities.

When Christians carry their children to church on the Sabbath, they are teaching them a better way of life and bringing them up in the way God would have them do. It brings good to the minds of children instead of evil.

Isiah, in Chapter 56: 2, said "Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the Son of man that layeth hold of it; that keepeth the Sabbath Day from polluting, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil."

Respectfully submitted,

Mother's Home Church and Pastor

--:-- ORDAINING COUNCIL --:--

From October 1, 1952 to October 1, 1953 we have held two meetings and have Ordained one minister, Rev. J. L. Batchelor, at Thompson Church on August 29, 1953.

We, therefore, recommend that his name be placed with the list of Ordained Ministers and that we hold him up to the Throne of Grace by our prayers.

Respectfully,

Rev. W. H. Horn,

Rev. L. D. Scott

Rev. H. L. Catrett, Chairman

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

We, your committee on Suggestions, suggest that the names of the Sunday School Convention Officers and the time of the Convention meetings be placed in the minutes with the Convention paying for same.

We suggest that Paragraph No. 15 in the Associational Decorum be numbered 16 and a new paragraph be inserted to read as follows: "No Church shall liberate any member to preach the Gospel unless he has held membership in the Church for at least twelve months; and no minister who comes from another denomination be liberated until he has been examined by the Ordaining Council and received Credentials bearing their approval."

We suggest that our Churches use Approved Freewill Baptist Ministers for all their revival services and not ministers of other denominations. Thus, avoiding internal strife in the churches.

We also suggest that the Program for the next Association be arranged and placed in the minutes of this Association. The program committee can work together with the nomination committee or the nomination committee can arrange the program together with their work.

Respectfully submitted,

Highway Church and Pastor

Rev. L. D. Scott

-:- TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE -:-

Temperance means the habitual moderation and control in the indulgence of appetites and passions - in other words, self control.

Temperance puts wood on the fire, meal in the barrel, flour in the bin, money in the purse, credit in the country, contentment in the home, clothes on the back and vigor in the body.

Knowledge is a prerequisite to temperance, and temperance to patience. It is difficult for an intemperate person to be patient.

The danger in the indulgence of stimulating foods and drinks is that they create an unnatural appetite and thirst leading to excess. All food and drinks should be nourishing and non-stimulating.

All intoxicating drinks are deceptive. They never give strength, but weakness; never impart vitality, but really destroy life; seems to promote happiness, but cause the greatest unhappiness and misery the world has ever known.

Lack of temperance causes: 1st Individuals - It increases the liability to fatal termination of disease. 2nd Communities - It produces demoralization, vice and wickedness. 3rd Families - It is a disturber and destroyer of peace, prosperity and happiness. 4th States - It promotes crime and pauperism, paralyzes thrift and industry. Why should people put things in their mouths to steal away their brains?

The liquor traffic is the most degrading and ruinous of all human pursuits. Its history is written in tears and blood.

In all walks and relationships of life we should always stand for temperance. It cannot exist or thrive without the patronage of each generation, a large number of whom it must necessarily ruin. The money the state receives is like unto a father fishing for dangerous sharks and baiting his hook with his own children.

Temperance reform should begin in the home, for unless parents practice it they cannot expect their children to do so.

Let Christians everywhere fight this monster evil with the weapons of righteousness and with daring determination to rid our land of this curse. The world is in need of stronger and more determined Christians go forth and fight sin and satan for the Glory of God.

Respectfully, *Corinth Church and Pastor*

-:- INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE -:-

We find all Churches and Ministers in good standing, as far as we know.

Respectfully, *A. R. Smith, Chairman*

-:- NOMINATING COMMITTEE -:-

The next Association will convene with Pilgrim's Home Church with Rev. H. L. Catrett, Moderator and C. A. Powell, Clerk.

Rev. L. D. Scott to be placed back on the Ordaining Council for three years.

We recommend, that in the future, a Moderator or Clerk can succeed himself after two consecutive years.

T. A. Drake

Mrs. W. J. Hilburn

Leroy Kirkland

-:- COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES -:-

We regret very much to learn since our last Association, 9 of our beloved members have been claimed by death. They are as follows:

Highway: Sell Perry.

Corinth: W. O. Smith.

New Home No. 2: W. R. Brock.

New Salem: Mrs. Kate Ingram.

Thompson: Mrs. R. M. Deberry.

Mt. Gilead: D. A. Heard; Joe Heard.

Pilgrim's Home: H. H. Vines; M. H. Edwards.

Evergreen: J. M. Addison; Mrs. Willie Williams.

Respectfully,

New Salem Church and Pastor

-:- SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION -:-

- 1954 Sunday School Officers -

Superintendent - Lane McLendon.

Assistant Superintendent - Pete Davis.

Secretary & Treasurer - W. E. Lane.

Clerk - Maggie Smith.

Assistant Clerk - Carolyn Bailey.

On the 5th Sunday in May, 1954 the Sunday School Convention will convene with Mother's Home Church. The program planned below will be given.

Morning Devotional - Mrs. Drew Floyd.

Welcome Address - Mrs. Richard McNease.

Response - Mrs. J. W. Nix.

Morning Message - Brother Joe Tedder.

Afternoon Hour.

Afternoon Devotional - Larry Powell.

On the 5th Sunday in October, 1954 the Sunday School Convention will convene with Bellview Church. Program plans are given below.

Morning Devotional - Mrs. Edward Gilbert.

Welcome Address - Shirley Clenney.

Response - Walter Phillips.

Morning Message - to be supplied.

Afternoon Hour.

Afternoon Devotional - Mrs. Merlene Grow.

--: UNION MEETINGS TREASURERS REPORT FOR 1952-1953 :-

ASSETS:

Union meeting at Evergreen Church - - - - -	\$80.00
Union meeting at River Turn Church - - - - -	73.00
Union meeting at Father's Home Church - - - - -	86.50
Union meeting at Thompson Church - - - - -	79.00
Total Received - - - - -	<u>\$318.50</u>

DISBURSEMENTS:

Evergreen, Superannuation Fund - - - - -	\$28.00
State Unified Programs - - - - -	28.00
Education - - - - -	12.00
Mission - - - - -	12.00
River Turn, Superannuation Fund - - - - -	25.55
State Unified Programs - - - - -	25.55
Education - - - - -	10.95
Mission - - - - -	10.95
Father's Home, Superannuation Fund - - - - -	30.25
State Unified Programs - - - - -	30.25
Education - - - - -	13.00
Mission - - - - -	13.00
Thompson, Superannuation Fund - - - - -	24.15
State Unified Programs - - - - -	24.15
Education - - - - -	10.35
Mission - - - - -	10.35
State Association Fee - - - - -	10.00
Total Paid - - - - -	<u>318.50</u>
BALANCE in Treasury - - - - -	\$0.00

-:- UNION MEETING PROGRAMS FOR 1954 -:-

The first Session will be held at Hebrew Church, January 30, 1954.
The program plans are listed below:

Devotion, Sister Eugene Middleton.
Welcome Address, Brother Riddlehoover.
Response, Sister L. D. Scott.
Business.

11:00 A.M. Message, Rev. J. E. Wisham, Jr.
Lunch.
Devotion, Sister Lucille Lane.
Talk, "Temperance" by Brother J. A. Ivey.
Adjourn.

The second Session will be held with Mother's Home Church, Saturday, May 29, 1954. The program plans are listed below:

Devotion, Brother Larry Powell.
Welcome Address, Sister Ottis McVay.
Response, Sister Eva Middleton.
Business.

11:00 A.M. Message, Rev. Lewis Batchelor.
Lunch.
1:30 P.M. Devotion, Brother Phillip Hines.
Talk, "The Church Reaches Out", Rev. Edward Sheffield.
Adjourn.

The third Session will be held at New Salem Church, Saturday, August 28, 1954. The program plans are listed below:

Devotion, Brother C. C. Bell.
Welcome Address, Sister Emmett Houston.
Response, Brother Willie Lane.
Business.

11:00 A.M. Message, Rev. C. A. Gilbert.
Lunch.
1:30 P.M. Devotion, Sister Newberry from Mt. Glory.
Talk, "Am I My Brothers Keeper?", Rev. B. W. Clenney.
Adjourn.

Clifton Powell, Chairman
Mrs. T. I. Crawford
C. C. Bell

--: MISSION BOARD REPORT FOR YEAR 1952-1953 --:

ASSETS:

Cash on hand from 1952 - - - - -	\$74.07
Union Meeting Funds, Nov. 29, 1952 - - - - -	12.00
Union Meeting donation, Nov 129, 1952 - - - - -	28.27
Union Meeting Funds, March 28, 1953 - - - - -	10.95
New Salem, Missions, April 5, 1953 - - - - -	12.44
Union Meeting Funds, May 30, 1953 - - - - -	13.00
Union Meeting Funds, August 29, 1953 - - - - -	10.35
Total Received - - - - -	<u>\$161.08</u>

DISBURSEMENTS:

Rev. H. L. Catrett, Nov. 29, 1952 - - - - -	\$20.00
Total Paid - - - - -	<u>20.00</u>

BALANCE in Treasury - - - - - \$141.08

Inez Brunson

--: PROMOTIONAL BOARD REPORT --:

Given below is the Promotional Board Report (Christian Education Board) for the 1953 Associational year.

ASSETS:

Cash on hand, Nov. 1, 1952 - - - - -	\$120.67
Recevierd Friday night of Association - - - - -	15.65
Cash from Association - - - - -	35.60
Cash from Union meeting - - - - -	12.00
Cash from Union meeting - - - - -	10.95
Cash from Union Meeting - - - - -	13.00
Received from T. I. Crawford - - - - -	20.00
Received from Union meeting - - - - -	10.35
Total Received - - - - -	<u>\$238.22</u>

DISBURSEMENTS:

Rev. H. L. Catrett, Cool Spring Church Revival - - -	\$25.00
Rev. H. L. Catrett Cool Spring substitute pastor - - -	\$30.00
Total Paid - - - - -	<u>55.00</u>

BALANCE in Treasury - - - - - \$183.22

Mary Brown

-:- TREASURER'S REPORT -:-

ASSETS:

Balance on hand from 1953 - - - - -	\$ 26.24
Received from Credential Committee - - - - -	340.90
Total Received - - - - -	<u>\$367.14</u>

DISBURSEMENTS:

Moderator - - - - -	\$ 15.00
Clerk - - - - -	25.00
Program Leaflets - - - - -	4.12
Promotional State Secretary - - - - -	23.98
Local Superannuation Board - - - - -	28.77
Christian Education Board - - - - -	23.97
F.W.B. Orphanage, Eldridge, Ala. - - - - -	19.18
State and National Dues - - - - -	15.00
Minutes - - - - -	159.71
Total Disbursements - - - - -	<u>\$314.73</u>
BALANCE in Treasury - - - - -	<u>\$52.41</u>

C. A. Powell, Treasurer

-:- LEAGUE RALLY -:-

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS:

President - - - - -	Clifton Powell
Vice-President - - - - -	Pete Davis
Secretary - - - - -	Merlean Nalls
Field Workers - - - - -	John Bailey
	Emmett Houston

Nominating Committee: Mrs. T. I. Crawford, Chairman, Carolyn Bailey,
Louise Miller.

Program Committee: Mrs. Inez Brunson, Chairman, Carolyn Newberry,
Delores Clenney.

LEAGUES, PRESIDENTS and SECRETARIES:

Salem: President, Pete Davis
Secretary, Alice Jane Worsley

Bellview: Secretary, Mable Carter

Colquitt: President, Abbie Calhoun
Secretary, Elaine Tully

Hebrew: President, Leslie Cross
Secretary, Walla M. Capp

New Evergreen: President, J. B. Holt
Secretary, Pauline Hays
Treasurer, Anette Cauley

Mother's Home: President, Mr. Gibson
Secretary, Zelda Bryan

Thompson: President, John Richardson
Secretary, Walona Thompson

The last meeting of the Freewill Baptist League Rally was held at Bellview. Larry Powell opened the meeting with prayer. After a song service, Sarah Newberry gave an inspiring devotional followed with prayer by Mrs. B. O. Brunson.

The welcome address was given by Sister Tenela Cleveland and Brother J. B. Adams made the response.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted. In the election of officers Clifton Powell was re-elected as President, Mrs. Smiley Grow as Secretary and Treasurer and Pete Davis was elected Vice-President. Elected for the nominating committee were Mrs. T. I. Crawford Chairman, Carolyn Bailey and Louise Miller. Elected for the program committee were Mrs. Inez Brunson, Chairman, Carolyn Newberry and Delores Clenney.

Leagues represented were Bellview, Mother's Home, Thompson, Colquitt and New Salem. Four presidents were present.

Willene Adams and Larry Powell were appointed as delegates to the State Rally. There was an offering taken from each church to send to the State Rally.

Rev. Drew Floyd gave an interesting talk after which there was a song. Brother T. I. Goocher dismissed for the noon hour.

Mrs. T. I. Crawford opened the afternoon session with prayer. Programs were rendered by the churches. Mother's Home Church won in the Bible Quiz.

Bellview was given a rising vote of thanks for their hospitality. A move was made and seconded to adjourn. Sister B. W. Clenney dismissed the meeting.

The Freewill Baptist League Rally met at Hebrew Church, January 30, 1954 with a song service led by Rev. B. W. Clenney. Mrs. Clara Nell Crawford gave the devotional. The welcome address was given by Mrs. Hill and Miss Shirley Clenney gave the response.

Mrs. Inez Brunson, Mrs. Emmett Houston and Mrs. Bailey were appointed on a program committee.

A report from the State League Rally requested the District League Rallies to carry \$5.00 to the State Rally. Each League was also requested to carry \$3.00 to the State League Rally.

Bellview, Mother's Home, New Evergreen and Hebrew reported with programs.

The 11:00 o'clock message was given by Rev. Edward Sheffield, taking "Who Is My Neighbor?" as his subject. Rev. Drew Floyd dismissed for lunch.

At 1:15 P.M. the Rally opened with a song service and Brother T. I. Crawford led in prayer. Mrs. Drew Floyd gave the devotional from the 91st Psalm. Special music was arranged by Rev. B. W. Clenney.

It was moved and seconded that an offering be taken for the expense of the Convention. New Salem, Bellview, Hebrew, Thompson, Mother's Home and New Evergreen gave their fee of \$1.00 each.

The different Leagues gave their programs which were enjoyed.

The Rally extended a rising vote of thanks to Hebrew for their very wonderful hospitality. Rev. B. W. Clenney gave the dismissal prayer.

-- EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS --

We held two meetings during the period from Oct. 25, 1952 until Oct. 23, 1953. All Boards were present at Thompson Church on Nov. 8, 1952 and at Pilgrim's Home Church on Sept. 26, 1953. We have given counsel and advice and are proud to report a steady growth of unity, fellowship and spiritual progress among most of the Churches and ministers; for which we are truly grateful. However, we believe that the Spiritual progress of our churches can be greatly increased if our pastors will cooperate more with the churches and the church programs.

Respectfully,

W. J. Hilburn, Chairman

The semi-annual Board Meeting of the Martin Association met with Pilgrim Home Church on Saturday, September 26, 1953 with the body being called to order by the Moderator.

A song service was held and Brother T. I. Crawford led the devotional taken from the 23rd Psalm.

The visiting brethren and sisters were invited to sit with us. The Moderator gave a talk on the needs of the Association and how to meet same.

Those present were: Executive Board - Brother W. J. Hilburn, W. R. Barber and the Moderator; Promotional Board - Brother T. I. Crawford

and Brother W. R. Barber; Investigating Board - A. R. Smith. Brother
Brother J. T. Hilburn was appointed clerk pretem.

Rev. H. L. Catrett gave the 11:00 o'clock message, in the absence
of Rev. L. D. Scott using as his subject "Bearing Burdens and Ful-
filling the Law."

The Executive Committee accepted an invitation from New Salem
Church for the place of the next meeting on Saturday before the 3rd
Sunday in November as the time (Nov. 14, 1953)

A rising vote of thanks was given Pilgrim's Home Church for their
hospitality and wonderful dinner in the church building.

The meeting was adjourned to meet with New Salem Church at 10:00
A.M. on Nov. 14, 1953. Rev. H. L. Catrett was appointed to preach at
the 11:00 o'clock hour.

Rev. H. L. Catrett, Moderator

Brother J. T. Hilburn, Clerk Protem

The Executive Board met with New Salem Church on Nov. 14, 1953
with some of the other boards present.

The meeting opened with a song service and prayer by Brother A. R.
Smith. The Moderator read the scripture from Ephesians 2:11-18.

Rev. B. W. Clenney gave the welcome address and Brother W. J. Hilburn
gave the response. The Moderator declared the Executive Board recessed
until afternoon in order for other Boards to organize.

The Moderator brought the 11:00 o'clock message reading from St. John
4:35. The meeting was dismissed for the noon hour.

The Moderator called the meeting to order with a song service. Brother
C. A. Sheffield led in prayer.

The motion was carried that the Promotional Board investigate the
possibility of organizing a church in West Bainbridge, Ga., with the co-
operation of the Mission Board.

Those present were: Promotional Board - C. A. Sheffield, Jr., Chairman
and Mrs. Mary Brown; Mission Board - O. F. Everson and Mrs. C. A. Lane;
Investigating Committee - E. S. Tully; Superannuation Board - C. T.
Turner and Mrs. T. I. Crawford; Ordaining Council - Rev. L. D. Scott.

A motion was carried to give a vote of thanks to New Salem Church
for the hospitality during the day. A motion was carried to meet with New
Home Church at 10:00 A.M., September 18, 1954 and for Rev. H. L. Cat-
rett, Moderator, to give the 11:00 o'clock message.

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer by Sister Annie
Newberry.

Rev. H. L. Catrett, Moderator

W. R. Barber, Clerk

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. No Church shall liberate any member to preach the Gospel unless he has held membership in the Church for at least twelve months; and no minister who comes from another denomination be liberated until he has been examined by the Ordaining Council and received Credentials bearing their approval.

16. 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. If a minister be guilty of unchristian conduct, he may be dealt with just as any other member, by his church, and must be reported to the Ordaining Council and they may silence him for a period of time or indefinitely, as they see fit.

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 government 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 subsersive 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.

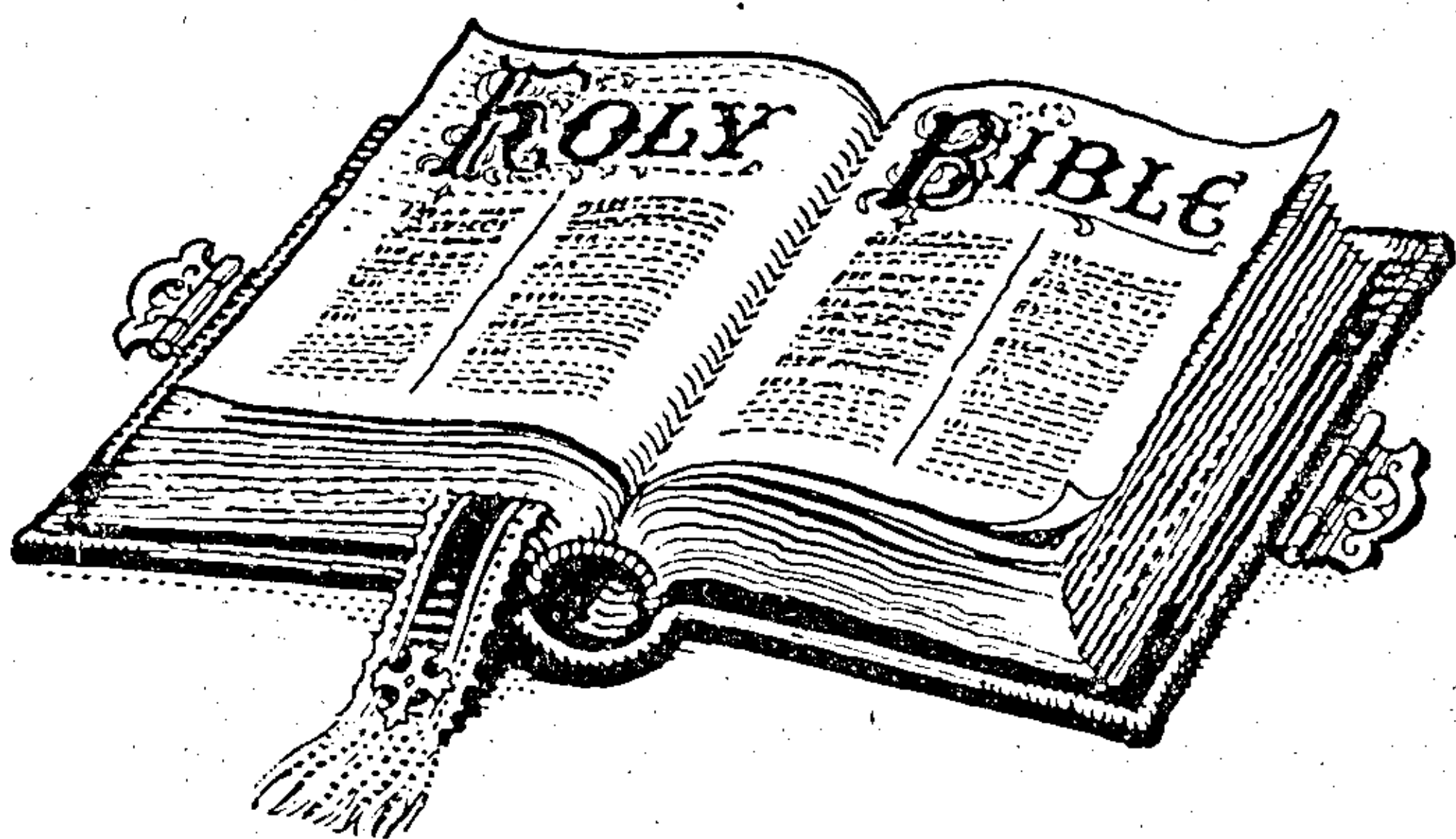
13. The business shall be taken up in order according to the subjoined plan, unless it becomes necessary to suspend the regular rules for a time for purposes which appear proper.

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 universally, 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.



CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERKS	ADDRESS	Meeting Days	Rec'd by Letter	Baptised	Restored	Ex. Com.	Dis. by letter	Died	Total Number	Ass'n Funds	Gave Pastor	Value of Church Property	Sunday School	Prayer Meeting	League	Ladies Aid
Bellview	B. W. Clenney	Donald Brown	Colquitt, Ga.	2 & 4	0	14	0	0	8	0	238	\$57.00	\$530.00	\$9,000.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colquitt	J. B. Ledlow	Wonnies Calhoun	Colquitt, Ga.	2 & 4	6	1	0	0	2	0	56	\$14.00	\$1,071.96	\$5,000.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Coolsprings	Lewis Batchelor	Laura Hyatt	Faceville, Ga.	2 & 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	\$5.00	\$85.52	\$1,000.00	No	No	No	No
Corinth	D. Floyd	Mrs. C. A. Lane	Iron City, Ga.	2 & 4	0	1	0	0	7	1	75	\$18.75	\$249.00	\$5,000.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Evergreen	B. W. Clenney	J. B. Barnett	Elmodel, Ga.	2 & 4	0	6	0	0	0	2	45	\$5.25	\$140.60	\$5,000.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Father's Home	J. E. Wisham, Jr.	A. G. Cumbie	Pelham, Ga.	1 & 3	0	5	0	0	0	0	56	\$14.63	\$115.00	\$2,000.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Hebrew	Edward Sheffield	Walter Atkinson	Donalsonville, Ga.	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	47	\$11.75	\$188.95	\$6,000.00	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Highway	J. C. Watson			2 & 4	0	0	0	1	2	1	60	\$15.00	\$184.09	\$3,000.00	Yes	Yes	No	No
Mother's Home	J. B. Ledlow	J. R. McNease	Colquitt, Ga.	1 & 3	1	9	1	0	7	1	102	\$25.50	\$321.41	\$2,000.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Mt. Gilead	H. L. Catrett	R. L. Boyd	Brinson, Ga.	2 & 4	1	0	0	0	0	2	59	\$14.75	\$600.00	\$7,000.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mt. Glory	L. D. Scott	Ethel Newberry	Quincy, Fla.	2 & 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	\$10.00	\$220.00	\$2,000.00	Yes	No	No	No
New Home No. 1	J. B. Lumpkin	W. E. Lane	Iron City, Ga.	4	0	2	3	1	1	0	124	\$31.00	\$509.32	\$4,500.00	Yes	Yes	No	No
New Home No. 2	W. H. Horn	Doc Kelley	Climax, Ga.	1 & 3	0	6	2	0	0	1	92	\$23.00	\$191.85	\$3,000.00	Yes	Yes	No	No
New Light	W. H. Horn	Ella Mae Braswell	Chiefland, Fla.	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	11	\$3.00	\$103.00	\$100.00	No	Yes	No	No
New Salem	B. W. Clenney	Idus Goocher	Colquitt, Ga.	1 & 3	2	13	0	0	1	1	185	\$46.25	\$537.22	\$5,500.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pilgrim's Home	H. L. Catrett	J. T. Hilburn	Newton, Ga.	1	0	3	0	0	2	2	34	\$8.50	\$309.36	\$6,000.00	Yes	No	No	No
River Turn	Edward Sheffield	Jackie Kirkland	Iron City, Ga.	2 & 4	7	2	0	0	0	0	40	\$10.00	\$219.60	\$4,300.00	Yes	No	No	No
Springfield	F. W. Sellers	C. B. Reese	Jakin, Ga.	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	15	\$4.00	\$63.96	\$1,250.00	No	No	No	No
Thompson	F. W. Sellers	G. R. Grimes	Colquitt, Ga.	2 & 4	3	0	0	0	2	1	94	\$23.50	\$305.16	\$5,000.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	No