

**MIDESSA
DISTRICT
ASSOCIATION

OF

FREE WILL
BAPTISTS**



1969-1970

Midessa District Association
of
Free Will Baptists
1969-1970

OFFICERS

Moderator	Rev. Earl Judd
Assistant Moderator	Rev. James Sturgill
Clerk	Mrs. Sherman North
Treasurer	Sherman North
Parliamentarian	Rev. Gene Jackson
Assistant Clerk	Doris Rousseau

BOARDS

Executive Board	4 Years	W. H. Johnson
	3 Years	Rev. Gene Jackson
	2 Years	Rev. George Stitt
	1 Year	Rev. Dean Thompson
Credential Board	3 Years	Bill Harmon
	2 Years	Cecil Qualls
	1 Year	Rev. George Stitt
Home Mission Board	3 Years	Gene Rousseau
	2 Years	R. E. Lunsford
	1 Year	Glen Wood
Sunday School Board	3 Years	Dora Johnson
	2 Years	Mrs. Elsie Judd
	1 Year	Martha Jackson
Church Training Service	3 Years	R. E. Lunsford
	2 Years	Pat Cates
	1 Year	Rev. James Sturgill
Board of Trustees		Boyd Phillips
		David Sellers
		Ray Wood
Auditing Committee	3 Years	Elizabeth McCowan
	2 Years	Gary Uhls
	1 Year	Gene Rousseau
Resolutions Committee	3 Years	Mrs. Doris Archer
	2 Years	Doris Rousseau
	1 Year	Mrs. Boyd Phillips
C.T.S. Director		Mrs. James Sturgill
Temperance Committee	3 Years	Mrs. Earl Judd
	2 Years	Mrs. Marie Smart
	1 Year	Mrs. Marie Allison
Obituary Committee	3 Years	Mrs. Barbara Mizzles
	2 Years	Mrs. R. E. Lunsford
	1 Year	Mrs. Ethel Sellers

NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBERS OF CHURCHES, PASTOR AND CLERK

Bible Free Will Baptist Church		
4700 Bryan Rd., Odessa, Texas 79760	.....	366-6870
Pastor - Rev. Gene Jackson		
600 N. Graham, Odessa, Texas 79760	.....	332-8659
Clerk - Doris Rousseau		
Box 6782, Odessa, Texas 79760	.....	362-4517
First Free Will Baptist Church		
1015 W. Campbell, Kermit, Texas 79745	.....	586-2594
Pastor - Rev. Dean Thompson		
1015 W. Campbell, Kermit, Texas 79745	.....	586-2594
Clerk - Marjorie Costello		
1018 Altman, Kermit, Texas 79745		
Faith Free Will Baptist Church		
409 S.E. Ave. C, Andrews, Texas 79714		
Pastor - Rev. Johnny Walker		
409 S.E. Ave. C, Andrews, Texas		
Clerk - Wilma Rogers		
710 N.W. 5th, Andrews, Texas 79714		
First Free Will Baptist Church		
7th and Vine, Odessa, Texas 79760	.....	332-4173
Pastor - Rev. Earl Judd		
2205 W. 7th, Odessa, Texas 79760	.....	332-4173
Clerk - Mrs. Weldon Huston		
4500 Redbud, Odessa, Texas 79760		
Westside Free Will Baptist Church		
1221 West Hicks, Midland, Texas 79701	.....	682-1482
Pastor - Rev. George Stitt		
111 So. Glenwood, Midland, Texas 79701	.....	694-0794
Clerk - Geraldine Harmon		
#4 Keenland, Midland, Texas 79701	.....	694-1002
Seminole Mission		
504 N.W. Ave. F, Seminole, Texas 79360	.....	758-5690
Pastor - Rev. James Sturgill		
803 N.W. Ave. K, Seminole, Texas 79360	.....	758-5690
Clerk - Eugene McCowan		
Rt. #3, Seminole, Texas 79360		

NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBERS OF OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

Rev. and Mrs. Earl Judd 2205 West 7th, Odessa, Texas 79760	332-4173
Rev. Dean Thompson 1015 W. Campbell, Kermit, Texas 79745	586-2594
Rev. and Mrs. James Sturgill 803 N.W. Ave. K, Seminole, Texas 79360	758-5690
Rev. and Mrs. Gene Jackson 600 N. Graham, Odessa, Texas 79760	332-8659
Rev. and Mrs. Johnny Walker 409 S.E. Ave. C, Andrews, Texas 79714	
Rev. George Stitt Box 5057, Midland, Texas 79701	694-0794
Sherman and Ila Merle North 1600 W. Washington, Midland, Texas 79701	684-6710
W. H. and Dora Johnson 4305 Versailles, Midland, Texas 79701	694-0909
Gene and Doris Rousseau Box 6782, Odessa, Texas 79760	362-4517
Eugene and Elizabeth McCowan Rt. #3, Seminole, Texas 79360	
Bill Harmon #4 Keenland, Midland, Texas 79701	694-1002
Cecil Qualls Box 123, Odessa, Texas 79760	366-3842
R. E. and Margie Lunsford 3407 Tanner Dr., Midland, Texas 79701	694-2369
Glen Wood 3802 Walnut, Odessa, Texas 79760	366-6044
Ray Wood 2519 East 11th, Odessa, Texas 79760	337-8026
Gary Uhls 4715 Leisure Dr., Midland, Texas 79701	694-1882
Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Phillips 905 East 13th, Odessa, Texas 79760	337-7469
Pat Cates 1215 West Montgomery, Midland, Texas 79701	682-4711
David and Ethel Sellers Box 1950, Andrews, Texas 79714	523-2328
Joyce Syler 612 Ruby Dr., Midland, Texas 79701	694-2426
Barbara Mizzles 3900 Cedar Springs, Midland, Texas 79701	694-7334
Marie Allison Box 2382, Odessa, Texas 79760	332-6964
Weldon Huston 4500 Redbud, Odessa, Texas 79760	366-0855
Marie Smart 904 East 25th, Odessa, Texas 79760	362-1565

DEACONS

Bible Free Will Baptist Church - Wesley Bray, Cecil Qualls, Rayford Ziggler
 Faith Free Will Baptist Church - David Sellers
 First Free Will Baptist Church, Kermit, Texas - L. D. Thompson, E. A. Fielding, David Sumpter
 First Free Will Baptist Church, Odessa, Texas - Glen Wood, Ray Wood, Boyd Phillips, Weldon Huston
 Westside Free Will Baptist Church - Sherman North, Bill Johnson, Bill Harmon

Minutes of Midessa Association Quarterly Meeting when convened with First Free Will Baptist Church, Kermit, Texas on September 7, 1968.

Friday Night, 7:30 P.M. - Woman's Auxiliary Meeting.

Saturday Morning, 9:30 A.M. - The Midessa District Quarterly meeting convened with the First Free Will Baptist Church in Kermit, Texas.

Rev. Dean Thompson led the congregation in song.

Rev. James Sturgill led our hearts in prayer.

More congregational singing was enjoyed by everyone.

Bro. Bill Baker led in prayer.

Rev. Earl Judd moderated the session.

The church letters were read by the Credential Board, 30 delegates, 5 churches, and 1 mission reported with \$55.00 in the church letters. Motion made, seconded and carried to seat the delegates. The delegates stood and were given the right hand of Christian fellowship.

Rev. Carl Cheshier was appointed by the Moderator to work with the Credential Board during this session.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Bro. Bill Johnson. Bank balance was \$540.85, Savings Account balance was \$11,882.05. Motion made and seconded to receive it as given. Motion carried.

The Executive Board Report was given by Rev. Johnny Walker. The verbal report was on the progress of the church building in Seminole. He also reported a collection of \$450.00 from Parkview Assembly of God Church. And all necessary papers have been compiled for Midessa Association to collect judgment against Jones Paving Co. Motion passed to receive the verbal report as information. The Sunday School Report was given by Sister Dora Johnson.

Report:

Church	Enr.	New Members	Dropped	Depts.	No. of Classes	Grade Average
Westside	123	19	16	3	15	60
Seminole	13	0	2	0	3	0
Bible Church	46	6	7	1	0	59
First Ch., Kermit	67	0	0	6	6	0
First Ch., Odessa	71	1	10	1	0	63
Faith Church	29	0	0	0	0	70
Totals:	349	26	35	11	24	Aver. 42

Contacts

Offering

Average Attendance

1332	\$2,329.49	103
0	96.94	10
38	51.26	31
0	57.37	36
378	268.69	53
0	43.65	22
1748	\$2,847.40	Average 43

A recommendation was given by the Sunday School Board that the Midessa Association have a contest in each local church during the next quarter, and the winner of the contest (the one with the largest average attendance) be presented a plaque. Motion was passed to receive the Sunday School Report and to adopt the recommendation.

The C. T. S. Report was given by Sis. Pat Cates.

Report:

Church	Enr.	Number C.T.S.'s	Ave. Att.	Offering	Dropped	Grade Average
First, Odessa	29	1	24	\$ 46.48	0	76
Bible Church	34	13	23	35.86	7	59
Westside	86	7	77	401.94	3	76
First, Seminole	12	1	6	5.94	4	0
Faith Church	25	5	20	4.85	1	60
Totals:	186	27	150	\$494.57	15	52

Submitted by,
Rev. James Sturgill
Pat Cates

Announcement was made that the Youth Rally would meet Oct. 19, 1968 at First Free Will Baptist Church, Kermit, Texas.

Sister Pat Cates resigned as C.T.S. Youth Director. Motion passed to accept the resignation. Rev. Carl Cheshier was nominated as C.T.S. Youth Director. Rev. Cheshier was elected by acclamation.

Motion made, seconded and carried that our district have a C.T.S. contest in each of our churches during the next quarter.

The Auditing Report was given by Bro. Gary Uhls. The books were audited and found to be correct and in order. Motion passed to receive the report as given.

The Obituary Report was given by Sis. Betty Hobbs. One death was recorded for the quarter. C. D. New of First Church, Odessa, Texas was reported to have gone on to be with the Lord. Motion passed to receive the report and the congregation stood while Rev. Carl Cheshier led our hearts in prayer for the loved ones who are left to bereave the loss of their loved one.

Submitted by,
Betty Hobbs

Rev. Carl Cheshier and Bro. Leo Jones were nominated as 3 Year men to the Credential Board to replace Rev. Muriel Wilson. Rev. Cheshier was elected. Sister Doris Rousseau gave the Resolution Committee Report.

Report:

Whereas the Midessa Association Executive Board wishes to hold the property papers of the First Free Will Baptist Church Mission of Seminole, Texas until it has paid the loan borrowed to finish paying off the property, and build a new building, whereas; the Association also has many other valuable legal documents, we would like to ask the Association to rent a safety deposit box allowing the Associational Clerk and the Moderator to hold the keys.

Motion passed to accept the report and adopt the resolution.

Submitted by,
Doris Rousseau

Nominations were in order for an Assistant Clerk. Sister Doris Rousseau was nominated and elected by acclamation.

A verbal Report was given by Rev. James Sturgill on the Seminole Mission. Report:

Vacation Bible School attendance was 21. Two decisions were made for Christ. The foundation for the church has been dug and progress is being made on the new church building.

Sherman North gave a verbal report on progress of the new church plant at Westside Church.

The First Church, Odessa, Texas reported they had their church property appraised and are making plans to sell their church property and build where their people are located.

Motion passed to adjourn business session for a recess.

After recess, services were begun with congregational singing led by Rev. Thompson.

The remaining part of the Credential Report was given by Rev. Johnny Walker.

Report:

1. We the Credential Board, having examined Bro. Wayne Byrd, find him in full faith and sound in doctrine, recommend that he be licensed to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ for a period of one year.

2. We the Credential Board, having examined Bro. L. D. Thompson, find him in full faith and sound in doctrine. We find in examining Bro. Thompson that he has been divorced, although he has not re-married. We find Bro. Thompson in good moral character. Due to the ruling of the Association in its By-Laws, we recommend that we table this discussion for three months and that it be given full consideration by the Association.

Motion passed to accept the Credential Report and vote on it item by item. Motion passed to license Bro. Byrd for a period of one year.

Motion passed that we table the change to the amendment to the By-Laws until next quarterly meeting.

Submitted by,
Rev. Johnny Walker
Rev. Carl Cheshier
Bro. Bill Johnson

Motion passed to change the Youth Rally from Friday night to Saturday night during the school months.

Motion passed to give a rising vote of thanks to host church for their kind hospitality.

Bro. Alvis McAffray sang a special "When I Stand With Jesus." It blessed our hearts.

Bro. Bill Baker sang a special in song, "Anchored In Love Divine."

Sis. Dora Johnson, Pat Cates and Mickey Cates sang, "The Third Man." All the congregation was moved by the singing of these specials.

The morning message was delivered by Rev. Earl Judd, Odessa, Texas. Scripture text was Heb. 12:1. The main thought of the message was to look to Jesus, to hold out and be encouraged by those who have been true witnesses for Him. The message challenged our hearts to go forth for Jesus. An invitation was given by Rev. Judd.

Blessing was offered over the noon meal and dismissal prayer.

The meeting was adjourned.

Mrs. Ila North
Recording Secretary

The Midessa District Association met December 7, 1968 at Bible Free Will Baptist Church in Odessa, Texas.

Bro. Ziegler led in Congregational singing with Pam Allison at the piano.

Rev. Dean Thompson led in prayer.

Rev. Earl Judd moderated the Session.

Amendment to By-Law 21 tabled until the end of the meeting.

Rev. Carl Cheshier brought the devotional on II Thes. 2:3 "The Need For Serving Jesus Christ."

Church letters were read by the Associational Clerk. Motion passed to receive the reading of the reports.

The delegates were seated and each delegate was given the right hand of Christian fellowship.

Rev. Lyn Wood, Promoter of Oklahoma Bible College, was recognized as a visitor to Midessa Association.

The minutes were read by the Clerk. Motion passed to receive the minutes as read.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Bro. Bill Johnson. Bank balance was \$552.41. Savings account balance was \$8,993.46. Motion was passed to accept the treasurer's report as given.

Sunday School Report was given by Sis. Dora Johnson.

Report:

Total enrollment 369, new members 40, dropped 18, number of depts. 20, number of classes 28, average grade 47, contacts 754, offering \$1,747.48, average attendance 51.

Submitted by,
Dora Johnson
Betty Hobbs

Motion was passed to receive the report as given.

A partial Credential Report was given by Rev. Carl Cheshier.

Report:

Midland Church	6 delegates and \$10.00
Faith Church	6 delegates and 10.00
Bible Church	6 delegates and 10.00
First Church, Odessa	6 delegates and 10.00
First Church, Kermit	6 delegates and 10.00
Seminole Mission	5.00

We the Credential Board have examined the letters and find 6 churches reporting.

We recommend Bill Harmon to be examined for ordination for deacon. Bro. L. D. Thompson be examined for license for a minister. The First Church, Odessa, Texas has extended an invitation to host the next quarterly meeting. We recommend that we receive the letters and seat the delegates.

Submitted by,
Rev. Carl Cheshier
Rev. Johnny Walker
Bro. Bill Johnson

Seminole Mission asked to host the next quarterly meeting.

Motion passed to receive the report and accept the recommendations.

The C.T.S. Report was given by Sis. Pat Cates.

Report:

Total enrollment 263, number of C.T.S.'s 43, average attendance 180, offering \$591.84, dropped 13, average grade 71.

Submitted by,

Pat Cates

Rev. James Sturgill

Motion made, seconded and carried to receive the report.

Announcement of the Youth Rally was given. It will be Jan. 18, 1969 at First Church, Odessa, Texas.

Rev. James Sturgill gave a verbal report on the progress of Seminole Mission. He reported 1 new family; the walls of the building are half finished. They have hopes of having it ready for services by the next quarterly meeting. An adult C.T.S. Class has been organized.

The Temperance Report was given by Sis. Elsie Judd.

Report:

We the Temperance Committee would recommend that we as Christians would watch our language and not let it become worldly and reflect on our lives as Christians, also our worldly entertainment.

Submitted by,

Marie Smart

Marie Allison

Elsie Judd

Motion passed to adopt this report.

A constitutional amendment to By-Law 21 was made. It will be based on I Timothy 3:2 and 12. It was amended to read, "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach." Verse 12, "Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife ruling their children and their own houses well."

Motion passed to accept the amendment.

Motion passed that we add other By-laws to the Constitution to read:

No. 22. No ordained person shall officiate in this Association if he or his wife has two living companions.

No. 23. Any Minister or deacon in violation of By-Law 22 will forfeit his credentials to Midessa Association.

By-Law No. 13 amended to read: Ministers or Deacons coming to this Association from other states or associations must be willing to submit to an examination by the Credential Board, if said Board deems it necessary. Any church belonging to this Association must be willing to submit to and abide by this examination. Amendment to Amendment on By-Law 13. Any Minister or Deacon who becomes unorthodox in Free Will Baptist faith and practices or in his conduct, shall be dealt with by the Executive Board of the Association, and if he is proven guilty, will turn his credentials over to the Executive Board until such a time that they may be lawfully redeemed.

By-Law No. 23 amended to read: Any Minister or deacon in violation of By-Law 22 will forfeit his credentials with the exception of those presently ordained.

We recessed for five minutes.

After recess we began our worship service with congregational singing led by Bro. Ziegler.

A special was given "When God Dips His Love In My Heart" by Rev. and Mrs. Gene Jackson and Bro. Bill Baker.

The morning message was delivered by Rev. Lyn Wood, Promoter of Oklahoma Bible College. Scripture text was II Chron. 34:14. His topic was "Revival of the Word of God." Points of the message was areas where the Word has been lost in the twentieth century. Lost in the church, the home, the school and the world.

Motion passed that each pastor recommend that each member of his church give \$1.00 per member per month to Oklahoma Bible College.

The Auditing Report was given by Bro. Gary Uhls. The Treasurer's books are correct and in good order.

Motion passed to give Rev. Lyn Wood \$100.00 love offering from Midessa District.

Motion passed to take up a special offering for Oklahoma Bible College.

Motion passed to give host church a rising vote of thanks for their kind hospitality.

Bro. Gene Rousseau asked the Lord's blessing on the food and dismissed in prayer.

The meeting was adjourned.

Ila North
Recording Secretary

The Midessa District Association met March 8, 1969 at Seminole Mission, Seminole, Texas.

Rev. Dean Burpo led in congregational singing.

Rev. D. H. Rudd led our hearts in prayer.

Rev. Earl Judd moderated the Session.

Rev. James Sturgill brought a devotional on Matthew 19:26-30.

Church letters were read by the Assistant Clerk, Doris Rousseau. Motion made, seconded and carried to accept the report.

Sunday School Report was given by Sis. Dora Johnson.

Report:

Total enrollment 354, new members 32, dropped 9, grade 62, contacts 704, offering \$2,054.90.

Motion passed to receive the report as given.

C.T.S. Report was given by Sis. Pat Cates. It was as follows:

Total enrollment 176, dropped 10, grade 67, offering \$552.06.

Motion passed to accept the report as given.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Bro. Bill Johnson. Bank balance was \$898.27. Savings account balance was \$8,993.46.

Motion made, seconded and carried to receive the report as given.

Announcement was made by Rev. Carl Cheshier that our Youth Rally would be April 19, 1969 at Seminole Mission, Seminole, Texas. Youth were asked to have their declamations, Bible bowl, sword drill, etc. ready for that meeting. The Temperance Report was given by Sis. Elsie Judd. Motion passed to receive it.

The First Free Will Baptist Church, Lubbock, Texas, will host the next quarterly meeting.

Midessa District Association gave the Seminole Mission a rising vote of thanks for their kind hospitality.

We recessed for twenty minutes.

After recess our congregation had a song service led by Rev. Sturgill.

The Credential Board recommended Bro. Bill Harmon back to his church for ordination as deacon. He is sound in doctrine. Also, they found Bro. D. H. Rudd sound in doctrine and recommend him to be sent back to his church for ordination.

Motion made, seconded and carried that we accept this report with the recommendations.

Motion passed to adjourn the business session and go into the worship service.

We enjoyed two special songs by the young people of Seminole Mission.

The message of the hour was brought by Rev. Dean Burpo, Lubbock, Texas. Scripture text was Revelation 2:17. Topic was "The White Stone." Emphasis was to take advantage in the White Stone.

Rev. James Sturgill led us in a song.

An offering was taken.

Rev. Carl Cheshier asked the Lord's blessing on the food and he dismissed in prayer.

Doris Rousseau
Assistant Clerk

The Midessa District Association met June 7, 1969 at First Free Will Baptist Church of Lubbock; Texas.

The meeting was opened with congregational singing "Joy Unspeakable" led by Rev. James Sturgill.

Rev. Dean Burpo led our hearts in prayer.

Rev. Earl Judd moderated the session.

The Clerk's Report was given by Ila North. Motion passed to receive it as given. The Annual Reports were read by Doris Rousseau. Motion passed to receive them as information with the addition of a verbal report from Seminole Mission of 6 Special Services held in the county jail with three of them during this quarter.

The delegates were seated.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Rev. Carl Cheshier. Bank balance was \$558.00. Savings account balance was \$9,808.31.

Motion passed to receive it as stated.

The Sunday School Report was given by Dora Johnson.

Report:

Four Churches reported with a total enrollment of 259. No. new members 11, dropped 11, depts. 5, no. of classes 28, average grade 70, contacts 531, offering \$698.89, average attendance 56.

Submitted by,
Dora Johnson

Motion passed to accept the report as given.

A verbal Youth Report was given by Rev. Carl Cheshier.

A letter of gratitude from the Seminole Mission Adventurer Declamation Contest Winners was read by Sis. North.

A recommendation from First Free Will Baptist Church, Odessa, Texas is as follows:

We, the First Free Will Baptist Church, Odessa, Texas respectfully send the following recommendation: To dispose of present way of Quarterly Meetings, and to meet every fifth Sunday at the various churches, with meeting consisting of business, lunch, two sermons and concluding with any and all remaining business.

Motion amended to read that we try this for one quarter to see how it works.

Motion made, seconded and carried to table this recommendation until next quarterly meeting.

The C.T.S. Report was given by Sis. Pat Cates.

Report:

Total enrollment 89, no. C.T.S.'s 18, average attendance 39, offering \$543.23, dropped 13, average grade 73.

Submitted by,
Pat Cates
Rev. James Sturgill

Motion passed to receive the report as given.

Motion made, seconded and carried that our Association give Bro. Bill Jones and his family a love offering of \$100.00 and that we give \$200.00 for the African literature program.

Motion made, seconded and carried that the District Association pay our District Youth Contest Winners expense to the State Youth Rally.

The election of officers was held.

Moderator: Rev. Earl Judd was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Assistant Moderator: Rev. James Sturgill was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Clerk: Sis Sherman North was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Assistant Clerk: Sis. Doris Rousseau was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Treasurer: Bro. Sherman North was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Parliamentarian: Rev. Gene Jackson was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Executive Board: 4 Year Man — W. H. Johnson was nominated and elected by acclamation.
3 Year Man — Rev. Gene Jackson was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Credential Committee: 2 Year Man — Cecil Qualls was nominated and elected by acclamation.
3 Year Man — Bro. Bill Harmon was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Home Mission Board: 3 Year Man — Bro. Gene Rousseau was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Sunday School Board: 1 Year — Martha Jackson was nominated and elected by acclamation.

C.T.S. Board: 3 Year Man — Bro. R. E. Lunsford was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Board of Trustees: Bro. Ray Wood was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Auditing Committee: 3 Year — Sis. Elizabeth McCowan was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Rev. Dean Burpo resigned as 1 Year man on Auditing Committee. Motion passed to accept his resignation.

Auditing Committee: 1 Year Man — Bro. Gene Rousseau was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Resolutions Committee: 3 Year — Sis. Joyce Syler was nominated and elected by acclamation.

C.T.S. Director: Sis. Vickie Sturgill was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Temperance Committee: 3 Year — Sis. Elsie Judd was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Obituary Committee: 3 Year — Sis. Barbara Mizzles was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Motion made, seconded, and carried that we have the minutes printed.

Motion passed to go to Westside Church for next session.

A verbal report was given on the Seminole Mission. Plans are being made for completion of the building very soon.

Recess.

After recess the congregation sang "Rescue The Perishing" and "I Love To Tell The Story."

A special in song by Rev. and Mrs. Burpo was enjoyed by each one.

Rev. Gene Jackson sang "Pearly White City." He was joined on the last verse by the congregation. It was a beautiful special.

Rev. Bill Jones, Missionary to the Ivory Coast, was introduced as speaker of the hour. The message was taken from Romans 1:14,15, Romans 6:1-9 and Colossians 3:1. Basis of the message was to identify with Christ. It was a challenge to our hearts to do God's will.

Motion passed to give host church a rising vote of thanks for their kind hospitality.

Blessing was offered on the food and we were dismissed in prayer.

Ila North

Clerk

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF THE
MIDESSA ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST**

PREAMBLE

To the end that all things may be done decently and in order, and that we may more readily help each other in our Christian service as members of the Midessa Association of Free Will Baptists, we adopt the following Constitution and By-Laws as methods of our work.

**ARTICLE I
NAME AND OBJECT**

Section I Name — The Midessa Association of Free Will Baptists.

Section II Object — This Association, believing in the inspired Word of God, and as the sole rule of faith and practice, and acknowledging its adherence to all the teachings of Christ, is organized for the purpose of the worship of God according to the teachings of His Word, to practice the precepts and examples of the church of our Lord Jesus Christ as set forth in the New Testament, to sustain the ordinances and doctrines, and to preach and propagate among all people of the earth the Gospel of God's salvation by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

**ARTICLE II
ASSOCIATIONAL AFFILIATION**

Section II — This local body of Free Will Baptist shall be a member of the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptist, and the National Association of Free Will Baptist, and shall report regularly by delegation and any necessary letters.

**ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP**

Section I — No church shall be accepted as a member of this Association in any manner without the will of the body duly expressed by its vote.

Section II — The geographical location of this Association, using Midland as the center, shall be; North to Lubbock, East to Sweetwater, Southeast to Sonora and San Angelo, South to Sheffield, Southwest to Fort Stockton, West to Pecos and Northwest to the New Mexico State line.

Section III — Any Church, doctrinally sound, approved by the Credentials Committee, within the above named locality, and complying with and endorsing this Constitution and By-Laws, and meeting the approval of the General Body when in session, may be accepted.

Section IV — Each Church may be represented by delegation according to the following basis:

Church	2 Delegates
Sunday School	1 Delegate
Church Training Service	1 Delegate
Womans Auxiliary	1 Delegate
Masters Men or Brotherhood	1 Delegate
Total:	6 Delegates

No Church shall exceed 6 Delegates.

Section V — All ordained personnel and all chairmen of boards, or their proxies, pastors' wives and deacons' wives in good standing with their local Church and Association, shall have a standing vote.

Section VI — Each delegation shall be qualified upon presenting to the Association, through the Credentials Committee, an authorized statistical letter signed by the pastor (or moderator) and church clerk, together with the stipulated associational dues. Failure to present the proper credentials shall disqualify delegation.

Section VII — New churches wishing to become members of this Association, shall present such petitionary letters as shall be authorized by the body.

Section VIII — Upon the adoption of the report of the Credentials Committee, the delegates may be seated. Manner of seating the delegates shall be left to the discretion of the moderator.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

Section I — The officers of the Association shall be: Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, and Chairman of Standing Boards or their proxies.

Section II — It shall be the duty of the moderator to call the Association to order and to preside over all sessions thereof. In the absence of the Moderator, the Assistant Moderator shall preside, or in his absence, the Clerk or the senior Minister shall preside until the election of a Moderator Protempore. Between sessions, the Moderator is chairman of the Executive Committee.

Section III — It shall be the duty of the Assistant Moderator to assist the Moderator in maintaining order and preside over the Association in his absence or at request.

Section IV — It shall be the duty of the Clerk to make and keep accurate records of all sessions of the Association, to have copies of the minutes printed and distributed to the churches comprising this Association, to make and keep good and accurate records of all meetings of the Executive Committee, and to enter the same in the minutes of the next session of this Association. Between sessions, the clerk is secretary of the Executive Committee.

Section V — It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all funds paid or donated to the Association and to make duly authorized disbursements; to make and keep a good and accurate record of all funds received and disbursed, and to report the same to the Association at the annual session. Between sessions, he is a member of the Executive Committee.

Section VI — It shall be the duty of the Parliamentarian to familiarize himself with the Parliamentary Law recognized by the Association, and to be ready to dispose of any point of order that be referred to him.

Section VII — The Officers of the Association shall be elected at the beginning of each annual session and shall assume office at the close of the session at which they were elected.

ARTICLE V MEETINGS

Section I — This Association shall have four meetings a year. They shall be as follows:

1. The Friday night and Saturday before the second Sunday in December.
2. The Friday night and Saturday before the second Sunday in March.
3. The Friday night and Saturday before the second Sunday in June.
4. The Friday night and Saturday before the second Sunday in September.

Section II — In the December, March and June meetings, a quarterly report shall be given by all churches. In the September meeting, a quarterly report and an annual report shall be given by all churches.

Section III — The Delegation from 50% of the membership churches shall constitute a quorum.

Section IV — The place of meeting shall be selected by majority vote of all members present; however, no invitation will be accepted by the Association unless it is written into the church letter by authority of the church.

ARTICLE VI

FINANCE

Section I — Each church shall send \$10.00 in each regular meeting of this Association.

Section II — Each church must support the plan endorsed by the National Association of Free Will Baptists. The present plan being the Cooperative Plan which is 10% of the gross income of each church. This money shall be directed to this Association's treasurer, and he in turn shall act according to the District Budget set at each annual meeting, or otherwise as directed by the District in the allocation of district monies.

Section III — Allocation of Associational monies:

1. Executive Committee
2. Standing Boards and Committees
3. Associational expense — Minutes, State and National dues, expense of District delegates to State Association, when not held in local District, and any other need directed by this Association.

ARTICLE VII

STANDING COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Section I — Executive Board — This Board shall consist of seven members who shall be as follows: Three members shall be officers of the Association. They shall be the Moderator, as chairman, the Clerk and the Treasurer. The other four members shall be elected by the body. At least two of these from the laity. They shall be elected in such a way as to require one to be elected each year. To this Board is delegated power to act in behalf of, and for this Association between regular sessions. This Board has the right to execute discipline in regards to any church that they may deem necessary. The Board shall have power to fill vacancies that may occur in its own body.

Section II — Board of Trustees — This Board shall consist of three members. They shall hold office at the will of this Association. They shall control any property entrusted to this Association.

Section III — Credential Board — There shall be three members elected from ordained personnel belonging to this Association. They shall examine all credentials and give any necessary examinations. This Board shall issue Minister's cards to those in good standing. They shall be elected by the body in such a way as to require one to be elected each year.

Section IV — Church Training Service Board — This Board shall have three members. They shall be responsible for the Church Training Service Program of this Association. They shall be elected by the body in such a way as to require one member each year to be elected.

Section V — Sunday School Board — This Board shall have three members. They shall be responsible for the Sunday School Program of this Association. They shall be elected by the body in such a way as to require one member to be elected each year.

Section VI — Home Mission Board — This Board shall have three members. They shall be responsible for all Home Mission work of this Association. They shall be elected by the body in such a way as to require one member to be elected each year.

Section VII — The Standing Committees shall be: Resolutions, Obituary, Temperance and Auditing Committee. Each of these committees shall have three members who shall be elected on the same basis as the standing boards.

BY-LAWS

1. The Moderator or Assistant Moderator, or in their absence, the oldest minister present shall call the Association into conference.
2. Each session shall be opened and closed with prayer.
3. Visiting brethren are invited to sit as advisory members.
4. Those who speak shall arise and address the Moderator. Personal reflections shall be avoided in all debates.
5. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and a vote taken.
6. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded.
7. No one shall speak more than twice on the same subject without special leave of the Moderator.
8. The Moderator shall not allow discussion when not carried on in a Christian spirit.
9. The ruling of the Moderator may be overruled by a two-thirds majority of the members voting.
10. No questions from any church shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it has first been discussed in its own church.
11. At each Association, arrangements shall be made to insure two or more sermons or their equivalent devotional exercises each day.
12. In the event any church in this Association becomes unorthodox in the Free Will Baptist faith and practices, or inactive, said church shall become Associational property. In the event this District becomes unorthodox in the Free Will Baptist faith and practices, or inactive, all Associational properties shall become the property of the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists.

Amendment to By-Law No. 12 — If any church in this Association becomes unorthodox in the Free Will Baptist faith and practices, or go down until they cannot transact business because they are disorganized, it shall become the property of the Association, and the Executive Board shall have power to execute legal papers for the property. In the event the churches in this Association become unorthodox in the Free Will Baptist faith and practices, or inactive, all church and Association property shall become property of the Texas State Association of Free Will Baptists.

13. Ministers or Deacons coming to this Association from other states or Associations must be willing to submit to an examination by the Credential Board, if said Board deems it necessary. Any church belonging to this Association must be willing to submit to and abide by this examination.

Amendment to By-Law No. 13 — Any Minister or Deacon who becomes unorthodox in the Free Will Baptist faith and practices, or in his conduct, shall be dealt with by the Executive Board of the Association, and if he is proven guilty, will turn his credentials over to the Executive Board until such time that they may lawfully be redeemed.

14. Petitioning Churches must read this constitution and by-laws to their respective churches before admission to this body.
 15. This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting of this Association, provided it carries a two-thirds majority of all voting members present. Proposed changes must be in writing, and submitted by three or more elected or standing delegates, and given to the Credentials Board, who shall present it along with church letters. The proposed change shall be tabled as the last item of business, thus allowing everyone time to think and discuss said proposed change.
 16. Written examinations shall be required by any candidate for license or ordination in this Association, or any church belonging to this Association.
 17. If any church has not complied with this constitution in every way, they shall be subject to automatic dismissal from this Association, and that the Executive Board with the Credential Board shall make their recommendation to the Association.
 18. Each church must meet their financial obligations as nearly as possible on the first of each month.
 19. Deacons must be on trial for a full six months. Ministers on trial for a full year.
 20. No person shall be ordained who does not believe in, and practice tithing.
 21. No person shall be licensed or ordained, or shall officiate as a pastor or deacon, who has ever been divorced at any time.
- Amendment to By-Law No. 21 — Based on I Timothy 3:2, 12 "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach".
 "Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well."
22. No ordained person shall officiate in this Association if he or his wife has two living companions.
 23. Any minister or deacon in violation of By-Law 22 will forfeit his credentials to Midessa Association.
- Amendment to By-Law No. 23 — Any minister or deacon in violation of By-Law 22 will forfeit his credentials with the exception of those presently ordained.

