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**MINUTES**

**OF**

**FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION**

**Mississippi State Association**

**OF**

**FREE WILL BAPTIST**



**Convened With**  
**AMORY CHURCH**  
**Monroe County**



**NOVEMBER 15-16, 1945**



Next session on Thursday before the Third  
Sunday in November, 1946.  
Place to be named by Executive Committee.

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### THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

The fourth annual session of the Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptist met on Thursday morning November 15, 1945 with the Amory Church.

The session was opened by song services led by Rev. W. O. Knight of the host church. Prayer was led by Rev. G. C. Lee.

The session was delayed for a short time awaiting the arrival of the Moderator Rev. M. L. Hollis, who had been called to Mo., to conduct funeral services.

Rev. Ralph Lightsey, pastor of the First F.W.B. Church of Columbus, brought the morning message, using verses from the seventh chapter of Joshua. His subject "Putting Away from you the Accursed Thing" was interesting and helpful.

At the close of this service a bountiful table was set in the basement of the church, where we fellowshiped for the noon hour.

### THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Met in song services led by Bro. W. G. Prude. Devotions were conducted by Rev. L. E. Winter, from Antioch Church just returned from service, who used portions of the second and third chapters of Revelation. Prayer led by Rev. G. C. Lee.

The moderator having not arrived, Bro. Lee took the floor and called for nominations for Moderator pro-tem to serve until Bro. Hollis should arrive. Rev. L. C. Johnson, pastor of East Tupelo Church, was unanimously elected and the business session began with the call for letters from churches represented.

Letters from the following churches were read by the clerk: Pine Grove, Springdale, Beech Springs, Pearce's Chapel, Fawn Grove, Columbus, Thompson's Creek, Amory, Lee's Chapel J. C., East Tupelo, Lovewell, Corinth, Depriest Chapel, Union Hill, New Gauley, Antioch, Priceville and Damascus.

Moderator appointed Resolution Committee as follows: Rev. Luther Gibson, Rev. W. O. Knight, L. E. Duncan, W. A. Mason and C. R. Hollis.

Rev. R. B. Crawford, National Executive Secretary of the denomination made a report on the work of the Free Will Baptist for the past year. His report was an inspiration to us, in that it showed progress, and was also a challenge for us to do more for the Master during the coming year.

The annual report of the Northeast Mississippi Association of Free Will Baptists, when convened with Depriest Chapel Church on September 15-16, 1945.

### STATISTICS

No. Churches .....	17	Paid pastors .....	\$ 7,258.74
No. Members .....	2254	Paid Evangelists .....	2,151.60
No. Rec'd for Baptism .....	74	Pd. Bldgs. & Repairs .....	15,890.10
No. Rec'd by Letter .....	43	Pd. Home Mission .....	1,083.43
No. Dismissed by Letter .....	46	Pd. Incidentals .....	894.36
No. Deceased .....	17	Pd. Christian Education .....	440.30
S. S. Enrollment .....	841	Pd. Benevolence .....	454.49
League Enrollment .....	355	Paid Foreign Missions .....	102.50
Ladies Aid Enrollment .....	61	Total .....	28,275.52
Weekly Prayer Meeting .....	4	Value of Church Property .....	57,744.13

Rev. M. L. Hollis, Mod.

Rev. George C. Lee, Clerk

### REPORT OF ZION'S REST ASSOCIATION

No. Churches .....	7	S. S. Enrollment .....	156
No. Members .....	330	Ordained Ministers .....	10
Received by Baptism .....	21	Licensed Ministers .....	1
Dismissed .....	4	Paid Pastors .....	\$622.50
Deceased .....	5	Paid Evangelists .....	290.50
Sunday Schools .....	6	Ass'n. Funds .....	43.80
		Total Paid .....	\$956.80

W. A. Mason, Moderator

Brooks Little, Sec'ty.

Home were assigned and the Business Session was adjourned until Friday morning at 9:00 o'clock.

Thursday evening services were well attended. The East Tupelo League presented a drama of the healing of the Centurion's servant, which was well rendered and impressive. Rev. Lee had charge of song services. Rev. Ralph Staten, of Pocahontas, Arkansas, filled the stand and brought an interesting message from 2nd and 3rd Chapters of Exodus. Subject "The Burning Bush." Bro. Staten is editor of the "Free Will Baptist Landmark" and also Moderator of The Arkansas State Association.

### FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Rev. Luther Gibson, a student at our Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee and pastor of Damascus Church, conducted the morning devotions, using as a basis for his short message the 11th chapter of Luke. Song, "I'll go where you want me to go."

The session was opened with Rev. M. L. Hollis in the moderator's chair. The hand of fellowship was given to the following brethren who were visiting with us: Rev. Ralph Staten, Rev. R. B. Crawford, and Brothers Whitman and May of Alabama, representing the Jasper Association of Ala.

Officers were elected as follows: Rev. M. L. Hollis, Mod., Rev. L. C. Johnson, Asst. Moderator, Rev. Luther Gibson, Clerk: Rev. Geo. C. Lee, Asst. Clerk and L. E. Duncan Treasurer.

Bro. W. G. Prude was retained as Promotional Secretary.

### REPORT OF RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

1. We recommend that each church tithe it's income to the various worthy causes. Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Christian Education, Superannuation and Building and Loan fund.

2. We recommend that the Constitution Revision Committee appointed at 1944 session be retained for another year.

3. We recommend that each church subscribe for at least 25 copies of the "Messenger" for one year in advance—cost of same being TWELVE DOLLARS, or 100 copies per month for one year at THIRTY-SIX DOLLARS.

4. We recommend the bonding by a Surety Company of the Treasurer premium to be paid out of treasury.

5. We recommend that State Home Mission Board work in harmony with provisions of National Home Mission Board.

6. That we extend to Amory Church and community sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks for the kindness and hospitality shown us while in their midst.

Signed by Committee.

Rev. M. L. Hollis was reelected as State Evangelist for another year.

A motion was made and duly sustained that the same State Mission Board be reelected for another year. Carried.

The Treasurer's report was made at this time. Adopted as read.

Upon a motion duly sustained and carried, The Executive Committee was given authority to select a meeting place for the 1946 session.

Recessed for preaching, Rev. L. C. Johnson, pastor of the Tupelo church filled the stand and used as his lesson Gal. 6th ch. Subject, "Glorifying in the cross of Christ" and preached a masterful sermon and was well received by all who heard him.



Rev. L. E. Winter, one of the fine young men called into the ministry from the Antioch church, was ordained at this time at the request of the church, the ordaining counsel was composed of the following men of God, Rev. M. L. Hollis, Rev. L. C. Johnson, Rev. Luther Gibson, Rev. Ralph Lightsey and his pastor, Rev. Geo. C. Lee. After the ordination Brother Winter was presented to the association as a duly ordained minister of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to go forward to preach the same.

This brought to a close another fine, harmonious session of the Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptist.

Adjourned for lunch.

After noon, the people met again for the purpose of bringing to a close the North East Mississippi association, that had recessed from the meeting at Depriest. The session was closed, to meet as had been arranged.

After adjournment, Rev. Ralph Staten filled the stand again and preached another wonderful sermon, using as his lesson, The True Vine which is Christ Jesus, and made the church a beautiful example of a growing vine in the Lord.

Rev. M. L. Hollis, Md.

Rev. Geo. C. Lee, clerk

### TREASURER'S REPORT

November 19, 1944 to November 14, 1945

#### RECEIPTS:

From Churches for Home Missions including Revivals .....	\$ 762.81
For FWB Messenger .....	96.25
Balance brought forward .....	299.42
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$1158.48</b>

#### EXPENDITURES:

Evangelists for five weeks' meetings .....	\$ 343.85
Singers' and Pianists' .....	83.20
Upkeep on tent and trailer-labor .....	40.80
Paid on Church Buildings .....	125.00
Field worker for hauling tent and traveling expenses .....	75.00
Meals for tent laborers' .....	4.80
Telegrams and phone calls .....	4.20
Tire and tube for trailer .....	14.00
12,500 copies of FWB Messenger .....	312.50
Subscription Books .....	6.00
Miscellaneous expenses—Messenger .....	11.26
Postage .....	25.20

**TOTAL .....** **\$1045.81**

Balance November 14, 1945 ..... \$112.67

**Receipts from Churches for Association 1945:**

Amory .....	\$ 5.00	Priceville .....	10.00
Antioch .....	5.00	Lovewell .....	20.00
Beech Springs .....	4.00	Union Hill .....	9.00
Columbus .....	10.00	Pleasant Grove .....	2.00
Damascus .....	10.00	Pine Grove .....	3.00
Depriest .....	5.00	Pearce Chapel .....	10.00
East Tupelo .....	16.15	Springdale .....	19.50
Fawn Grove .....	10.00	Lee Chapel J. C. ....	5.00
New Gauley .....	10.00	Thompson Creek, .....	4.00
Corinth .....	4.25		

**TOTAL** .....\$161.90

**EXPENDITURES:**

Officers ..... 20.00

Balance from 1945 Association ..... 141.90

Total on hand November 30, 1945 .....\$274.57

## CONSTITUTION OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

**PREAMBLE:** The Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptists is designed to consolidate the efforts of the different associations of the state; to harmonize the work; to unify the sentiment of the common cause of the Redeemer; and by fraternal interchange of views among their members, to promote the cause of the denomination and stimulate a growth in grace and in knowledge of gospel truth.

**Article 1—Name**

This body shall be known henceforth as The Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptists.

**Article 2—Purpose**

The object of this association shall be to more thoroughly unify the work of the various associations of Mississippi and to devise and execute measures for the extension of Christ's kingdom in connection with the various associations comprising this organization.

**Article 3—Membership.**

This association shall be composed of the various associations of the above named states when joined to this association in duly constituted ways.

#### Article 4—Delegation

Each association shall be allowed three delegates, to the annual meeting of the state association, from each of their respective, local churches. Each ordained minister, in good standing in his respective churches and associations, shall have the same privilege as a duly elected delegate.

#### Article 5—Discipline.

The State Association shall have the right to settle any question of discipline, doctrine, or usage that may properly come before it from time to time from any of the Associations comprising the said State Association, or act upon any appeal that may be made by any of the associations belonging to the State Association; said appeal shall have been written and signed by the Association making the appeal, then forwarded by mail or in person to the State Association. The State Association shall not usurp any of the powers of the local association or any church within any association.

#### Article 6—Officers

The officers of the Association shall consist of a Moderator, an assistant Moderator, a Clerk, an assistant Clerk and a Treasurer, each of whom shall be nominated from the floor at each regular meeting. Election shall be determined by a majority of those present and voting. All officers shall hold office until their successor is elected and installed.

#### Article 7—Executive Board. Sec. 1

The executive Board shall be composed of seven members, three of whom shall be the moderator, the clerk and the treasurer of the State Association and four which shall be elected from the floor of the association, the terms to run from one to four years for the first four elected, then one member to be elected every year.

Section 2. Duties of Executive Board: 1st. To act for the association in matters that demand consideration between the regular annual session of the association. 2nd. To fill vacancies in the association that may occur by death, resignation or otherwise between regular session of the Association. 3rd. To make written reports of its work to the next regular session of the association.

#### Article 8—Boards and Committees.

The association shall have as many Boards and Committees as it thinks necessary to carry out the program it may determine to promote in connection with the National Association.



**Article 9—Finance**

Annual dues shall be in the amount of FIVE CENTS per member for each member in the respective churches of each local association.

**Article 10—Legal representation.**

Each delegation to the State Association shall be required to present its credentials, together with a report of the work from the body they represent, to a duly elected Credential Committee.

**Article II—Parliamentary Laws.**

The members of this association shall be governed by the standard parliamentary rules and usages of deliberative bodies.

**Article 12—Meetings**

The association shall hold its regular meeting annually on Thursday and Friday before the third Sunday in November. Special meetings may be called by the Executive Board in case of extreme necessity provided the clerk of each local association has been advised at least 15 days prior to such meetings. Fifteen legal delegates shall constitute a quorum for the special meeting of the association.

**Article 13—**

This constitution may be amended at any regular session of the State Association by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided the change is recommended in writing on the day before the vote is taken.

## OFFICERS

M. L. HOLLIS, Moderator .....	Red Bay, Ala.
L. C. JOHNSON, Asst. Moderator.....	East Tupelo, Miss.
LUTHER GIBSON, Clerk .....	DeKalb, Miss.
GEORGE C. LEE, Asst. Clerk .....	Calhoun City, Miss.
L. E. DUNCAN, Treasurer .....	East Tupelo, Miss.
W. G. PRUDE, Promotional Sec'ty.....	Tupelo, Miss.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

M. L. Hollis .....	Red Bay, Ala.
Luther Gibson .....	Dekalb, Miss.
L. E. Duncan .....	East Tupelo, Miss.
W. A. Mason .....	Bucatanua, Miss.
L. C. Johnson.....	East Tupelo, Miss.
Ralph Lightsey .....	Columbus, Miss.
Van Walley .....	Richton, Miss.

## HOME MISSION BOARD

C. R. Hollis, Chairman.....	Gattman, Miss.
J. T. Alexander .....	Saltillo, Miss.
L. E. Duncan .....	East Tupelo, Miss.
W. G. Prude .....	Tupelo, Miss.
W. F. Bevill .....	Toccopola, Miss.

## SUPERANNUATION BOARD

J. M. Haas, Chairman .....	Tupelo, Miss.
Mrs. Mildred Honnell .....	Columbus, Miss.
George C. Lee .....	Calhoun City, Miss.
W. A. Mason .....	Bucatanua, Miss.
L. J. Lee .....	Gattman, Miss.

## BUILDING & LOAN COMMITTEE

C. R. Hollis, Chairman .....	Gattman, Miss.
J. M. Haas, Sec'ty.-Treas. ....	Tupelo, Miss.

## FREE WILL BAPTIST MESSENGER

M. L. Hollis, Editor .....	Red Bay, Ala.
L. E. Duncan, Associate Editor .....	East Tupelo, Miss.