

M I N U T E S
OF
Sixth Annual Session
The Mississippi State
Association
OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST



CONVENED WITH
LOVEWELL CHURCH
GREENE COUNTY
November 13th and 14th, 1947



Next Session on Thursday and Friday Before the Third
Sunday in November, 1948, With the East Tupelo
Church in Lee County, East Tupelo, Miss.

MINUTES

THURSDAY MORNING—FIRST DAY SESSION

The sixth annual session of the Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptist met on Thursday, the 13th day of November, 1947, and continued through Friday noon of the 14th.

The Association was opened by singing, conducted by Rev. G. M. Pearson of the Zion Rest Association. Several songs were used and at the eleven o'clock hour, Rev. R. B. Crawford, our executive secretary of the National Association, of Nashville, Tenn., took the stand and delivered a very interesting message from Phil., second chapter, verses 1 to 13, and Joshua 24 and 29. The message was well received by the delegation.

Adjourned for lunch.

FIRST DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION

The Moderator, Rev. L. C. Johnson, being absent, the Assistant Moderator, Rev. M. L. Hollis, being present, took the chair and presided with dignity and earnestness.

Rev. Crowson gave the devotion from Matt 24, 1 to 15. The Moderator called for the church and district reports, which were made at this time as follows: Antioch, New Gauley, East Tupelo, Priceville, Beech Springs, Columbus, Pearce's Chapel, Springdale, and Damacus, from the Northeast Mississippi District; Lee's Chapel, Jones County, Pine Grove, Lovewell, Thompson Creek, and Corinth, from the Zion Rest Association; and the following district associations reported, the Northeast Mississippi and the Zion Rest.

The letters were read and the delegates were seated.

The Executive Board made a report at this time and the new constitution and by-laws of the Mississippi State Association were received and adopted.

There was a move to have Brother Luther Gibson appointed as board member in place of L. C. Johnson, who has moved away. This is the Executive Board.

There was a call for reports at this time, and G. C. Lee made a partial report of the superannuation work in the state.

Rev. R. B. Crawford made a report to the Association as National Field Secretary.

The Moderator appointed a resolutions committee, as follows: Oliver Haas, A. W. Stephens and Miss Inez Roberson.

There was a move to close the day's business for the night service, and we met back for night service. There was some good singing, and Brother M. L. Hollis was selected to fill the stand. He used as his subject for the hour, the three phases of the right-

eous resurrection, and all enjoyed his message, and it was educational as well as very inspiring.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Met by singing and prayer. Devotion conducted by Rev. W. O. Knight, reading from the 133rd Psalm. Prayer by Bro. W. G. Prude.

Meeting of Executive Committee, March 30, 1947—

The Executive Board of the Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptists met on the afternoon of above date, as previously announced, for the purpose of disposing of proposed Constitution and By-Laws as written by Constitutional Committee appointed at last session of Association. Members present were: Rev. L. C. Johnson, chairman; Brothers Letcher Fields, Oliver Haas and L. E. Duncan. The meeting was called to order by Rev. Johnson, and L. E. Duncan was elected as acting secretary. Written acceptances having been received from twelve churches, a motion was made by Bro. Fields, duly sustained by second and unanimously carried that the Association accept the proposed Constitution and By-Laws and that the previous Constitution be declared null and void, as of above date. Adjourned with prayer.

L. C. Johnson, Chairman; L. E. Duncan, Act. Secty.

Report of Board of Christian Education, 1946-47—

We, your Board of Christian Education, beg leave to report as follows:

We have not been able to get together and plan as we would like to, and we feel that there should be a great awakening among our people in the field of christian education, and especially when we think of the great part our college in Nashville is destined to play by our united cooperation in it's support. May we pray for the continued success of the college. There are at present three of our Mississippi youths who are in our school at Nashville. Two of these are from Antioch Church, and one from Priceville Church, and we understand there is another from Antioch planing going the second semester, if there is room for him.

Funds received by Association Treasurer and transmitted to Treasurer of Bible College are as follows:

Northeast Mississippi Association, by free will offering.....	\$ 31.55
East Tupelo Church	169.66

TOTAL.....	\$201.21
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We are not supporting our college as we should, so may we pray about this and then do what the Lord lays on our hearts to do.

Respectfully submitted,

TRUMAN FREEMAN, Chairman.

ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

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Treasurer's Report from Nov. 14, 1946, to Nov. 1, 1947—

Received from Churches:

Amory	\$ 25.55	Pine Grove	7.40
Antioch	145.50	Priceville	17.00
Beech Springs	2.25	Springdale	17.00
Bethlehem	15.25	Stetson Chapel	3.55
Columbus	22.00	Thompson's Creek.....	5.00
Corinth	11.00	Union Hill	12.00
Depriest Chapel	22.00	State League Rally.....	33.00
Damascus	15.00	N.E. Miss. Assn.	43.20
East Tupelo	495.50	Zion's Rest Assn.....	14.00
Fawn Grove	10.00	Special Offerings	91.22
Fulton		Miscellaneous Funds....	72.48
Lee's Chapel J. C.....	5.00	Rev. & Mrs. L. Gibson	10.00
Lee's Chapel W. C.....		G. L. Dulin	5.00
Lovewell	32.28	Rev. D. W. Jones.....	2.00
New Gauley	17.00	Revival—	.
New Life		McGregor's Chapel....	40.80
New Macedonia		Subscriptions	25.50
Pearce's Chapel	8.00		
Pleasant Grove			
		TOTAL RECEIPTS....	\$1225.43

Expenditures from Nov. 14, 1946, to Nov. 1, 1947—

Arrears	\$.73
Moderator	5.00
Clerk	10.00
Treasurer	5.00
Rev. K. V. Shutes—Travel	13.09
Rev. Ralph Staten—Travel	15.00
Bible College—Christian Education	201.21
Rev. Winford Davis—Foreign Missions	310.64
C. B. Dees—National Home Missions	19.22
Joe Fort—National Superannuation	9.40
I. L. Stanley—F.W.B. Home for Children.....	33.00
Fee to National Association	20.00
12,500 F.W.B. Messengers folded and mailed.....	373.75
Staples, Tape and Wrappers	3.90
500 Minutes Printed and Mailed.....	45.24
Letterheads and Envelopes	5.00
Labor, Supplies and Repairs for Tent and Trailer.....	28.31
Check Exchange	1.05
Mileage to Promotional Secretary	77.60
Travel Expense to National Assn.—Two Delegates.....	59.94
State Evangelist—(Due \$24.20)	40.80
Letter Forms for Churches to State Association.....	4.50
Postage for Mailing Missionary Review	1.62

Rev. George Lee—State Super'n.	28.20
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TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1312.20
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Total Amount Needed to Balance.....	\$ 111.02
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There was one elected to work with the National Revision Committee to revise the Treatise of the Denomination, and Rev. M. L. Hollis was elected.

There was one member to be appointed on the Board of Christian Education, and Brother Freeman was the one to retire.

There was elected a complete Board of Missions. They are as follows: L. E. Duncan, Chrm., C. R. Hollis, Inez Roberson, Lee Walley and Letcher Fields.

The election of a man to take the place of Brother Dee Hollis, who retires this time, resulted in the election of Brother Luther Gibson on Superannuation Board.

Rev. M. L. Hollis was retained as State Evangelist.

Rev. M. L. Hollis was retained as Editor of the Messenger, and L. E. Duncan as assistant Editor.

There was a move made and adopted that this body recommend to the Mission Board that wherever there is a meeting sponsored by the board that all the offerings taken be used for the erection of a church, provided that a church building is in progress or planned.

Election of delegates to the different associations, as follows: To National Association, which meets with the church at Pocahontas, Ark., Sunday night of the second Sunday in July, 1948, Mrs. Luther Gibson, Marvin Brewer, Mrs. J. T. Sullivan, Oliver Haas, and W. G. Prude.

To National Association at large from the district Association: Leather Walley from the Zion Rest, and C. R. Hollis from the Northeast.

To Alabama State, which convenes Thursday before the second Sunday in November, 1948, near Liberty, Ala., Luther Gibson, G. M. Pearson and L. E. Duncan.

To Arkansas State, which meets Wednesday and Thursday before the first Sunday in October, 1948, W. G. Prude, M. L. Hollis and Luther Gibson.

To Tennessee State, last Wednesday and Thursday of August, 1948, with New Hope Church, near Pleasant View, Tenn., Mrs. Luther Gibson, Luther Gibson and Earl Alexander.

Officers elected for another year: Geo. C. Lee, Moderator; G. M. Pearson, Assistant Moderator; Oliver Haas, Clerk; Luther Gibson, Assistant Clerk; L. E. Duncan, Treasurer; W. G. Prude, Promotional Secretary.

REPORT OF FOREIGN MISSION BOARD

We beg leave to submit the following report:

We feel that some progress has been made in the field of Foreign Missions in Mississippi during the past year, and we are looking forward optimistically to this coming year. We know that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is a gospel for the whole world and that in Christ's last days upon the earth that He gave us the Great Commission, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations." Matt. 28:19b.

Your humble servant has been selected by the National Foreign Mission Board to direct the work in Mississippi, and I respectfully ask that you do your utmost for this work, ever looking for the glorious appearing of our Great God.

Following is a list of the churches and individuals that have given for Foreign Missions since Nov. 14, 1946:

Antioch	\$ 78.00
Corinth	6.00
East Tupelo	179.06
Rev. and Mrs. Gibson	10.00
Miss. League Rally	12.00
Pine Grove	3.40
Zion's Rest Assn.	14.00
State Assn. Offering	31.58

TOTAL.....\$333.94

Sent Rev. Winford Davis, Treas., Nat'l Board...\$310.64

We have been given a quota of \$600.00 for the year, beginning July 1, 1947, to June 30, 1948. Let's erase that quota before the first of the year. We can do it and God will bless us for so doing. November has been designated as Foreign Mission month for Mississippi.

There is an urgent need for more mission funds as we have those who the Lord has laid His hand on for foreign service and we do not have sufficient funds to send them. Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that the means will be provided so that we can send more laborers into the vineyard.

MISS. BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS,

By L. E. Duncan, Secretary.

REPORT HOME MISSION BOARD FOR PAST YEAR'S WORK

The work of the Home Mission Board has not measured up to our expectations, however, there has been some fine accomplishments. First: The gospel tent was erected at Fulton for a meeting and so great was the interest that when the meeting came to a close the membership asked that they be allowed to worship under

the tent until their church building was ready to worship in. They have a nice little church building of concrete blocks and are carrying on services each Sabbath. Due to the lack of funds and feeling that perhaps they would rather take care of their own expenses and the evangelist that we allowed them the privilege of keeping, all the offerings and taking care of expenses while the tent was there. The board erected the tent and made trips looking about it.

Sesond: The gospel tent was erected on Highway Six, about six miles west of Pontotoc, this fall and Rev. Hollis, our state evangelist, assisted by Bro. W. O. Knight and Bro. Gibson, carried on for a week's meeting. The interest at this meeting was better than that shown by any group since the tent has been on the field. At the close of the week's meeting a church was organized and more than twelve hundred dollars in cash and pledges of about the same amount raised for a building. At this meeting the offerings were short of what the evangelist was promised for these meetings. Only \$40.80 being turned into the Board.

Funds that have been received:

Antioch	\$ 45.00
Lovewell	10.00
Amory	10.00
League Rally	8.50
Revival	40.80
East Tupelo	56.80
N. E. Miss. Association	43.20

TOTAL.....\$214.30

The gospel tent has served long and well, but if we carry on on the home field, we must have a new tent. We have had the present one for five years, and three years is counted as the ordinary life for one. It would be well to make plans to get a new tent by the time spring opens. The side curtains and poles we have will be adequae to serve with another tent of the same size—30x50.

HOME MISSION BOARD.

REPORT OF RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

We recommend that the State Superannuation Board be an independent body to act for the whole State of Mississippi and use all the funds one hundred percent for the work in this state.

Resolved, that we accept our \$200.00 allotment for the national headquarters for Free Will Baptist. That each church send an offering to our state treasury.

Resolved, that we call upon every church and pastor to rally

to the call of our Foreign Mission work and state directors of Foreign Missions.

Resolved, that we give to the Lovewell church and community a rising vote of thanks for their kindness and hospitality shown us while in their midst.

REPORT OF PROMOTIONAL SECRETARY OR FIELD WORKER FOR THE PAST YEAR

I have visited the following churches outside of my home church in interest of the work: One trip to Lovewell; one trip to Antioch; one trip to Bethlehem; three trips to Fulton; also hauled the gospel tent to and from the meeting in Pontotoc County. I traveled a total of 776 miles, for which I was allowed mileage in the amount of \$77.60. Funds reported to my credit from churches visited and my own, \$688.53. I realize that this report is not so good, but you remember that a suggestion was made at last meeting that a man from each church look after collecting and sending in funds for the various causes. I felt at that time that such a move would fail to produce the desired results, but was willing to try it as it is quite a bit of traveling and a lot of wear and tear on a car to visit the different churches.

Respectfully submitted,

W. G. PRUDE, Promotional Secty.

REPORT OF SUPERANNUATION BOARD

There has been received to date the following funds:

Jan. 29th—Springdale Church	\$10.00
June 26th—Antioch	12.00
Nov. 13, 1947—East Tupelo	28.20
Nov. 13th—Columbus	25.00

TOTAL RECEIVED.....	\$75.00
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DISBURSEMENTS

Record Book	\$.35
Postages and Exc.23
Flowers for Rev. Haas	5.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS.....	\$ 5.58
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Balance on Hand	\$69.62
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We would recommend that the Deacons of each church, together with the pastor, compose a board of intelligence to work with this board in keeping it posted from time to time of needy ministers and the worthiness of same, and that they notify this board of same, and, too, that each church set aside each fifth Sundy as

Superannuation Day and take an offering at that time for this work and report it to this board. And we ask that you pray for us that we may at all times do the Lord's will in this work.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. C. LEE, Secretary, Calhoun City.

IVY DANIELS, Cgr., Toccopola.

JODIE WALKER, Oxford.

H. A. ROBERTS, Tupelo

LUTHER GIBSON, Tupelo.

REPORT OF ASSOCIATIONS

Report of Zion Rest Association, which convened with the Lovewell Church, near Richton, Miss., October 4, 1947:

Churches represented 6; Deacons present 12; Ministers present 11; Licensed Ministers 2; Paid Pastors \$875.48; Paid Evangelist \$294.41; Members 264; Received by Letter 5; Received by Baptism 5; Received by Confession 4; Deceased 2; Home Missions \$29.00; Sunday Schools 4; Enrollment 188; Teachers 18; Value of Church Property \$6,600.00; Indebtedness \$520.00; Disbursement of Property \$124.42; Christian Education \$101.24; Amount in Association Treasury \$48.81; Miles traveled by ministers 50,000 miles; three pastors serving churches.

Next meeting of Association will be with Pine Grove Church, Wayne County, near Bucatunia, on Friday and Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1948.

C. M. JENKINS, Moderator

BROOKS LITTLE, Clerk.

Report of Northeast Mississippi Association, which convened with Bethlehem Church, in Pontotoc County, on Thursday and Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1947. Next session with Damascus Church, in Kemper County, 25 miles East of Philadelphia, Miss. Our statistics are as follows:

Number Churches reported 19; membership 2,445; Received by baptism 116; Received by letter 36; Dismissed 32; Deceased 11; Sunday Schools 16; S. S. Enrollment 928; Leagues 7; League Enrollment 318; Paid pastor \$9,583.26; Paid Evangelist \$2,303.47; Paid on buildings and repairs \$3,665.27; Paid incidentals \$922.99; Paid benevolences \$965.46; Paid Christian Education \$648.03; Paid Home Missions \$820.73; Paid Foreign Mission \$371.55; Paid Superannuations \$155.05; Paid for Minutes \$88.13. Total \$19,524.04. Ladies' Aid 4, enrollment 73; Value church property \$57,100.00; Value Parsonage \$4,000.00; weekly prayer meetings 7; Ordained Ministers 10; Licensed Ministers 2; Deacons 75.

We send as delegates to represent us in the state meetings: Mrs. Clyde Goodson, Mrs. Oliver Haas, Mrs. Moon, Letcher Fields,

and Mrs. J. T. Sullivan.

LUTHER GIBSON, Moderator, Tupelo.

L. E. DUNCAN, Clerk, Tupelo.

CHURCHES, PASTORS AND DELEGATES

Antioch—Joe S. Fredrick, Hackleburg, Ala., M. L. Morris and Milton Crowson.

East Tupelo—Luther Gibson, Mrs. Luther Gibson.

Pearce's Chapel—M. L. Hollis, Red Bay, Ala., Inez Robinson and Hilda Hollis.

Columbus—M. L. Hollis, Red Bay, Ala.; Dee Hollis.

New Gauley—G. C. Lee, Calhoun City; Carolyn Goodson and Janice Griffin.

Priceville—G. C. Lee, Calhoun City; M. O. Haas, and Earl Alexander.

Lee's Chapel—G. C. Price, Pontotoc; A. W. Stephens.

Lovewell—G. M. Pearson, Richton; Lee Walley, Grady Burge.

Corinth—Delegates, W. B. Sanderson and B. Boyles.

Pine Grove—J. K. Walley, Richton; Levy Smith, J. B. Patrioch.

Constitution and By-Laws

OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST

Article I—Name

This organization shall be known as MISSISSIPPI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST.

Article II—Purpose

The purpose of the Association shall be to more thoroughly unify the work of the various district associations and churches of Mississippi, and to devise and execute measures for the extension of Christ's Kingdom in connection with the various district associations and churches comprising this association.

Article III—Composition

This association shall be composed of the various district associations and churches of Mississippi, when joined in this association in duly constituted ways.

Article IV—Representation

Each district association shall be allowed FIVE delegates from the laity of the association at large, same to be chosen at the annual meeting of the district association, in addition each church will be allowed TWO delegates. Each ordained minister in good repute with his church or district association will have the same

privilege as a duly elected delegate.

Article V—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 district association or church comprising its membership, or may act upon any appeal made by same provided, that, questions or appeals are made in writing presented in person to the moderator of the State Association. The State Association shall not usurp any of the power of the district associations or churches.

Article VI—Officers

The officers of the State Association shall consist of a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer and Field Secretary. These shall be nominated from the floor during the final business session of each annual meeting. Election to be determined by a majority of the duly elected delegates present and voting. All officers shall hold office until their successors have been installed.

Article VII—Boards

The Association shall have the following named Boards, for the purpose of seeing that the work program of the Association is carried on in the best possible manner, namely: Executive Board, Board of Missions, Board of Christian Education, and Board of Superannuation.

Article VIII—Boards and Committees

The Association may add as many other Boards or Committees as deemed necessary to carry out its program.

Article IX—Finance

Associational Funds shall be an amount equal to TEN CENTS per member for each member in the respective churches in each district association.

Article X—State Unified Program

For the purpose of carrying on the various phases of our work funds received by the Field Secretary will be credited to STATE UNIFIED PROGRAM unless otherwise designated. These funds will be allocated, through the Treasurer to the Boards as follows: Board of Missions will be allocated 60% of total, 40% for Home Missions and 20% for Foreign Missions, 20% to Board of Christian Education and 20% to Board of Superannuation.

Article XI—Official Organ

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST MESSENGER shall be the official organ of the Mississippi State Association. The officers of this organ to be elected annually by the body while in session. Funds for the support of the organ to be furnished through church

and individual subscriptions, gifts and from general or associational funds of the body.

BY-LAWS

Article I

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over each session, preserve order, govern the body according to established parliamentary usage, and appoint all temporary committees.

Section 2. The duties of the Assistant Moderator shall be the same as those of the Moderator when that officer is not present.

Section 3. The Clerk shall keep an accurate record of the transactions of the Association and preserve the same, keep all valuable documents and surrender the same to his duly elected successor in office. He shall have supervision of the printing of the minutes of each session, getting this done at the most reasonable price for quality printing.

Section 4. The Assistant Clerk shall perform the duties of the Clerk when that officer is not present.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall be custodian for all funds of the Association. Funds for out of state expenditures should be sent through this office that a complete record may be available. Allocation of State Unified Program funds will be made by him to various Boards. The Treasurer shall make an annual report to the Association of all funds handled by his office.

Section 6. It shall be the duty of the Field Secretary to see that each district association and church is given a chance to help in the State Unified Program. It is also his duty to look after any field work which the Association deems necessary to its progress.

Section 7. The Moderator and Treasurer shall be allowed \$5.00 per annum for their services. The Clerk will be allowed \$10.00 per annum for his services. The above amounts to be paid from the general or associational fund. The Field Secretary shall receive 10 cents per mile for traveling expenses and the Association may allow him any additional remuneration it may see fit, same to be paid out of Unified Program funds.

Section 8. The Executive Board shall consist of the general officers of the Association and the chairman of the standing boards. The Board shall act for the Association in matters that demand consideration between regular sessions of the Association. They shall fill all vacancies of officers or board members in the Association that occur by death, resignation or otherwise between regular sessions of the body. The Secretary of Executive Board must record all business transacted in any session and read the same at the next regular sitting of the Association.

Section 9. Each of the standing boards shall organize by electing a Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer. The terms of officers

of all boards except the Executive Board shall run for five years each after the original members have served from one to five years as elected by Association.

Section 10. The duties of the Board of Missions shall be to regulate and supervise all mission work in Mississippi and support the Foreign Mission work of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. They shall also aid in raising funds for the mission program and build sentiment favorable to missions.

Section 11. The duties of the Board of Christian Education shall be to keep our people informed concerning the Christian Education program of our denomination; endeavor to promote the cause of Christian Education, receive funds and work in harmony with the National Board.

Section 12. The duties of the Board of Superannuation shall be to provide for our aged, retired or infirm ministers in some form of superannuation and to work out a way of helping our younger and active ministers to prepare for their support when days of active service are past.

Section 13. Each delegation from district association or church shall present credentials with an annual report of year's work.

Section 14. The members of the Association shall be governed by the standard parliamentary rules and usages of deliberative bodies.

Section 15. The Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptist shall meet annually on Thursday and Friday before the Third Sunday in November.

Section 16. This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended at any regular session of the Association by a two-thirds vote of the duly elected delegates present and voting, provided the change or amendment is presented in writing on the day prior to that on which the vote is taken.

Adopted by Executive Board, March 30, 1947.