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OF THE

OF

**WHEN CONVENED WITH**

## GREENVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

**THE NEXT SESSION WILL BE HELD**

WITH THE

## RICHTON, MISSISSIPPI

[illegible]

# MINUTES

OF THE

*Thirteenth Annual Session*

OF THE

MISSISSIPPI STATE ASSOCIATION

OF

# FREE WILL BAPTIST

WHEN CONVENED WITH

*First Free Will Baptist Church*

GREENVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

*November 4 & 5, 1977*

THE NEXT SESSION WILL BE HELD

WITH THE

FELLOWSHIP FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

RICHTON, MISSISSIPPI

FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND NIGHT AND SATURDAY  
BEFORE THE FIRST SUNDAY  
IN NOVEMBER, 1977

**Mississippi State Association**

**Of Free Will Baptists**

**1977-1978**

**MODERATOR** ..... **REV. WILLIAM E. ATKINSON**  
Route 1, Smithville, Mississippi 38870  
**ASSISTANT MODERATOR** ..... **REV. LUTHER GIBSON**  
134 North Lake, Booneville, Mississippi 38829  
**CLERK** ..... **REV. DANIEL GASKINS**  
P.O. Box 353, Richton, Mississippi 39476  
**ASSISTANT CLERK** ..... **REV. GLEN E. SHELBY**  
Route 3, Box 793, Waynesboro, Mississippi 39367  
**TREASURER** ..... **MR. A.V. ARMSTRONG**  
Route 1, Box 278, Smithville, Mississippi 38870  
**EDITOR. . . MISSISSIPPI MESSENGER** ..... **REV. DANIEL GASKINS**

**BOARD OF MISSIONS AND CHURCH EXTENSION—**

Rev. Bill Robinson—1978; Bro. Berry Van Nowell—1979; Rev. Wendell Walley—1980; Rev. Bill Smith—1981.

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—**

Rev. Luther Gibson—1978; Rev. Glen Shelby—1979; Rev. Paul Long—1980; Bro. Larry Gunnoe—1981; Rev. Mile Mutchelor—1982.

**BOARD OF CONFERENCE AND ITINERATE MINISTRIES—**

Rev. Danny Dwyer—1978; Rev. Jack Jones—1979; Rev. Mark Daniels—1980.

**BOARD OF HISTORICAL COMMISSION—**

Rev. Russell Clouse—1978; Rev. J. K. Walley—1979; Rev. Floyd C. Barber—1980.

**BOARD OF CHILDREN'S HOME—**

Bro. Charles Walden

**GENERAL BOARD MEMBER TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION—**

Rev. Wendell Walley

**AUDITING COMMITTEE—**

Bro. Jimmie Walley—1978; Rev. Don Taggart—1979; Rev. Wayne Yarbough—1980.

**DIGEST REPORT OF THE CHURCHES AND ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTED  
AT THE MISSISSIPPI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS CON-  
VENING AT THE FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH OF GREENVILLE,  
MISSISSIPPI, NOVEMBER 4 & 5, 1977.**

**NAMES OF CHURCHES:**

Antioch (Burnsville), Antioch (Randolph), Beech Springs, Bethel, Bethlehem, Buckatunna, Burgess Creek, Corinth, County Line, Damascus, Eggville, Fawn Grove, Fellowship, First-Amory, First-Booneville, First-Columbus, First-Greenville, First-Iuka, First-Philadelphia, First-Richton, Fulton, Jones Chapel, Lee's Chapel-Jones Co., Lee's Chapel-Wayne Co., Little Brown, Lovewell, Macedonia, McGregors Chapel, Main Street-Amory, Martin Hill, New Gauley, New Labanon, Northside-Columbus, Pearce Chapel, Pine Grove, Spring Dale, Thompson Creek, Tupelo, Victory, White Hill.

**NAME OF ASSOCIATIONS:**

South Mississippi; Little Brown Creek; Northeast.

**TOTAL FINANCES RECEIVED WITH CHURCH AND ASSOCIATIONAL LETTERS:**

State General Fund—\$315.00; Missions—\$175.00; Representative fees—\$345.00.

**STATISTICS AND FINANCIAL REPORT**

**STATISTICS—**

Number of Churches .....	40
Church Membership .....	4613
Number of Parsonages .....	17
Number of Ordained Ministers .....	60
Number of Licensed Ministers .....	14
Number of Ordained Deacons .....	?
Sunday School Enrollment .....	2975
CTS Enrollment .....	1093
Woman's Auxiliary Enrollment .....	308
Master's Men Enrollment .....	25
Mid-Week Average Attendance .....	776

**FINANCIAL REPORT—**

Spent for Local Causes  
    Pastor's Salaries  
    Misc. Building and Repairs, other  
    Total spent for local Causes

Spent for outside causes:	
Cooperative Plan .....	?
Foreign Missions .....	\$8,883.92
Home Missions .....	\$6,444.52
Children's Home .....	\$6,190.06
Education and Bible College .....	\$5,028.60
Combined Value of Church and Parsonage property .....	\$6,046,243.77

NOTE: We regret that this report is incomplete. We were unable to find these figures in Bro. Gaskins records after his decease.

G. Shelby

**PROCEEDINGS  
BIBLE CONFERENCE  
BOARD OF CONFERENCE AND ITINERATE MINISTRIES**

**AND  
OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE ASSOCIATION OF  
FREE WILL BAPTISTS  
CONVENING AT THE FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
GREENVILLE, MISSISSIPPI  
BIBLE CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

**November 4, 1977  
Rev. Danny Dwyer, Presiding  
G. W. Harris, Song Leader**

**FRIDAY MORNING**

9:30 a.m. Welcome and Introduction .....Rev. Danny Dwyer  
: Hymn and Prayer  
10:00 a.m. Message .....Rev. Mike Jones  
: Hymn  
10:40 a.m. Message .....Rev. Mike Mutchler  
11:20 a.m. RECESS  
11:30 a.m. Message (Joint Service with Woman's Auxiliary)  
Rev. Bill Roberson  
12:30 p.m. Lunch  
1:30 p.m. Hymn and Prayer  
1:35 p.m. Message .....Rev. Daniel Gaskins  
2:10 p.m. RECESS

**MISSISSIPPI STATE ASSOCIATION MEETING  
FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION**

The Thirteenth Annual Session of the Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptists met at the First Church, Greenville, on Friday afternoon, November 4 & 5, 1977.

The session was opened with congregational singing "To God Be The Glory" led by Larry Gunnoe. The meeting was called to order by the clerk. The clerk introduced the moderator, Rev. William E. Atkinson. Congregation sang "All That Thrills My Soul."

The clerk gave the Digest Report of churches and Associational letters. Motion was made and carried to receive the report and seat the delegates.

The executive Committee Report was given by the clerk. Motion was made and carried to receive report and vote item by item. (See Report).

Committee on Committees appointed; Rev. Al Hamm, Rev. Floyd Barber. Rev. Glen Shelby. Prayer of benediction was prayed by G. W. Harris.

**FRIDAY NIGHT SESSION**

Congregation sang "Standing on the Promises," Rev. Don Holland led in prayer. Congregation sang, "At Calvery." Moderator introduced the officers of the association. Welcome address was given by the host pastor, Rev. Wendell Walley.

The report of the Committee on Committees was given by Rev. Al Hamm. Motion was made and carried that the report be accepted. (See report).

Special music by a quartet-Rev. Dwight Fletcher, Rev. Billy Beven, Larry Gunnoe and G.W. Harris. They sang "Heaven Came Down and Flooded My Soul."

Treasurers Constitution change was read by Rev. Dwight Fletcher. Motion was made and carried to table until tomorrow's session. Offertory prayer was prayed by Rev. Bill Bevan. Offering received in the amount of \$83.68. Congregation sang "I Am Resolved."

Rev. Bill Smith, pastor of Martin Hill F.W.B. Church brought the message. He read from Mark 16:9-20. He used verses 15 and 20 as his text. His subject was "Missions, Our Task." He pointed out one (1) Mission mandate-command, (2) Mission Message (3) Mission Method. He preached a very challenging message. Benediction was prayed by Rev. Paul Kettermann.

### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Meeting began with congregation singing "Oh, How I Love Jesus." Prayer by Rev. Jack Jones. Rev. Malone Cobb conducted the prayer meeting; he began with prayer. He quoted Acts 4:30 and referred to Acts 12:5. He brought a very challenging message on prayer, using Bible illustrations on prayer. He closed the message with prayer.

### BUSINESS SESSION

Congregation sang, "I am Thine, O Lord."

Written report of Children's Home was read by moderator from Don Johnson. Motion made and carried to adopt the report as read. (See report).

Report of the Woman's Auxiliary was given by Mrs. Luther Gibson. Moved and carried to accept the report. (See report).

Report of conference and itinerate ministries Board was given by Rev. Danny Dwyer. Motion was made and carried to adopt the report. (See report).

Report of Nominating Committee was given by Rev. Dan Gaskins. Motion was made and carried to accept report and vote position by position. Motion was made and carried to accept the report and accept by acclimation. (See report).

Report of Free Will Baptist Bible College was given by Rev. Paul Kettermann. Motion made and carried to accept the report as information.

Congregation sang "Take the Name of Jesus With You."

Motion made and carried to take off the table the Constitutional change presented by the Mission Board. Motion made and carried to previous question. Motion made and carried to adopt previous question and ammend.

Report of the Board of Christian Education was given by Larry Gunnoe. Motion was made and carried the report be adopted. (See report).

Motion made and carried to give our present treasurer a rising vote of thanks for his years of faithful service.

The new mission fund treasurer was announced by Rev. Wendell Walley. He is Rev. Dwight Fletcher.

Report of Board of Missions and Church Extension was given by Rev. Wendell Walley. He called on Rev. J.L. Gore from Jackson to give report; Rev. Steve Nichols from Greenwood to give report; and John Pake from Greenville to give report. Motions made and carried to adopt the report. (See report).

The Constitutional changes presented by the Executive Committee that was tabled on Friday. Motion was made and carried to take this resolution off the table. Changes adopted.

Report of the Foreign Missions Department was given by Rev. Jack Williams. He

also gave report of the Executive Office of the National Association. Motion made and carried to accept these two reports as information.

The auditing Committee report was given by Rev. Dan Taggart. Motion made and carried to adopt the report. (See report).

The treasurer's report was given by Mr. A. V. Armstrong, State Treasurer. Motion was made and carried to adopt the report. (See Report).

The National CTS report was given by Larry Hampton. Motion made and carried to accept the report as information.

Written report of the National Home Mission Board was distributed. Recess:

Worship service began with volunteer choir singing "Jesus and Me." Congregation sang "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus."

Rev. Mark Daniel preached the message. He used Matthew 28:19 as his text. His subject—"Christian Growth." He read 2 Peter 1:1-15. He preached a challenging message, presenting the areas of Christian Growth. How to grow and the importance of Christian Growth. He closed his message with prayer.

Offertory prayer was prayed by Rev. Atkinson. Worship offering was given to State Missions in the amount of \$105.00.

Host pastor gave instructions concerning lunch hour. Congregation sang "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus."

Rev. Carlton Lambert prayed the Benediction and Blessing on the Lunch.

#### **SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION**

The afternoon session began with congregation singing "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms."

The report of Sunday School Department was given by Jim Loftin. Written reports of the Board of Retirement and Insurance. Motion made and carried to receive the reports for information.

The report of the National Layman's Board was given by Lloyd C. Olson, director. Motion was made and carried to accept the report with the recommendation that Charles Henderson be elected as State Senator to the Layman's Board.

The resolutions committee report was given by Rev. Floyd Barber. Motion made and carried to accept the report and vote item by item. (See report).

Motion was made and carried to adjourn. Benediction prayed by Rev. Leandor McAdams.

A rising vote of thanks to moderator.

#### **REPORT OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

#### **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES**

We your Committee on Committees submit the following recommendations for:  
Nominating Committee—Malone Cobb, Mike Mutchelor, Carter Brewer;  
Resolutions Committee—J.K. Walley, Jack Jones, Herbert Knight.

Submitted by  
Al Hamm,  
Floyd C. Barber,  
Glen Shelby.

## REPORT OF MISSISSIPPI STATE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

May God be praised continually for His love and blessings. This has been a very good year in our Woman's Auxiliary work. We submit the following record with gratitude to our lovely Lord.

Active Members .....	289
Home Mission Offering and Project .....	\$2148.15
Foreign Missions .....	561.50
State Missions .....	49.01
Bible College .....	641.24
Co-Laborer and W.N.A.C. General Fund Offering .....	474.82
Children's Home .....	231.81
Retired Ministers .....	20.00
Youth Camp or Projects .....	79.80
Auxiliary Literature and Supplies .....	487.32
Local Church Activities .....	1307.70
Other Special Offerings .....	186.11

### NON CASH GIFTS:

Children's Home .....	386.88
Missionary Provision Closet .....	174.00
Youth Camp .....	50.00
Grand Total Disbursed .....	7,087.34

A wonderful Prayer Retreat was held at Lake Tia' Kata, Louisville, Mississippi, with Sandra Payne, a registered nurse from Ivory Coast, as our guest speaker.

The 1977 Project—Whells for Hasses—\$2,952.71 Total Given \$10,040.05.

The 1978 Project—\$2500.00 for "A Room in Pearl to Help Change the World."

One District reports \$414.96 more that was not channelled. Grand Total—\$10,455.01.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Gibson, President  
Eloise Crossley, Secretary

## BOARD OF CONFERENCE AND ITINERATE MINISTRIES REPORT

The Board of Conference and Itinerate Ministries submits this report to the Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptists concerning 1976-77.

### I. Pastor's Retreat

The second annual Pastor's Retreat was planned at Tombigbee State Park in May, 1977. A good number of Pastors registered and enjoyed the relaxing and spiritually refreshing atmosphere.

Due to illness and exhaustion Dr. Leonard Ravenhill, who was scheduled to be with us, was not able to attend.

## **II. Executive Committee Meeting**

The Board met with the Executive Committee on August 27, 1977 at the Amory First Free Will Baptist Church to plan the program for the State Meeting. After much discussion the program was agreed upon and the meeting adjourned.

## **III. Itinerates for State Missionaries**

Due to pressing needs to re-establish support, itinerates for our State Missionaries are presently being planned to allow them contact with out churches for the needed support.

It is our sincere prayer that He who is able to supply all needs will grant solid financial support through our churches that the work be not hindered.

Mark Daniels  
Jack Jones  
Danny Dwyer

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

We, your Nominating Committee submit the following names for nomination: Moderator—Rev. William Atkinson; Assistant Moderator—Rev. Luther Gibson; Clerk:—Rev. Daniel Gaskins; Assistant Clerk—Rev Glen Shelby Treasurer—Bro. A. V. Armstrong; Editor—Mississippi Messenger—Rev. Daniel Gaskins; Board of Missions and Church Extension to fill the expired term of Rev. Dwight Fletcher—Rev. Dwight Fletcher, 1982.

Board of Christian Education to fill the expired term of Rev. Norman Nowell—Rev. Mike Mutchelor, 1982.

Board of Conference and Itinerate Ministries to fill the expired term of Rev. Mark Daniel—Rev. Mark Daniel, 1980.

Board of Historical Commission to fill the expired term of Rev. Curtis Briley;—Rev. Floyd C. Barber, 1980.

Member of Board of Children's Home to fill the expired term of Rev. Don Johnson—Bro. Charles Walden of Martin Hill.

Auditing Committee to fill the expired term of Rev. Wayne Yarbrough:—Rev. Wayne Yarbough, 1980.

Respectfully submitted,  
J.M. Cobb  
Mike Mutchler  
Carter L. Brewer

## **RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

1. Whereas, the Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church near Richton has requested the State Association for 1978, and whereas, the First Free Will Baptist Church of Booneville has requested the State Association for 1979, and whereas, the First Free Will Baptist Church of Amory has requested that the State Association accept these invitations as received for the next three years.

2. Whereas, The First Free Will Baptist Church of Greenville has most graciously provided their facilities and services to host this State Association, "be it therefore resolved that we give a rising vote of thanks to the pastor and congregation of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Greenville and others for their gracious hospitality during this State meeting."

3. Resolved—Bro's. G.W. Harris and Larry Gunnoe be commended for the excellent musical program presented during this State Association.

Submitted by,  
J.K. Walley  
Jack Jones  
Herbert Knight

#### AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT

We the Auditing Committee, after meeting and examining records of the State Association, find all the records correct and in order. We would like to commend Bro. Armstrong for his time and labor that he has done.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wayne Yarbough  
Don Taggart

#### REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

During the past year the board sent letters to all local churches in the state advising each pastor and CTS director of the set of recommendations passed at the state association.

The state CTS Competition was held at the Tupelo Church June 11, 1977. There was a fair amount of participation from Northeast and Little Brown Associations and none from South Mississippi. We appreciate all those who entered and urge the pastors to encourage even more participation next year.

We wish to strongly urge all entrants in next years competition to abide by the recommendations, especially those concerning dress and hair.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptist for year beginning October 1, 1976 and ending September 30, 1977. All gifts to missions, designated, etc. are listed as a total.

#### MISSION FUND RECEIPTS:

Amory Fed. Saving and Loan-Interest on savings .....	362.52
Antioch F.W.B. Church-Burnsville .....	30.00
Antioch F.W.B. Church-Randolph .....	100.00
Beech Springs F.W.B. Church .....	659.55
Bethel F.W.B. Church .....	155.76
Bethlehem F.W.B. Church .....	102.00
Buckatunna F.W.B. Church .....	252.00
Burgess Creek F.W.B. Church .....	72.63
Corinth F.W.B. Church .....	632.08
County Line F.W.B. Church .....	152.00
Deprist Chapel F.W.B. Church .....	10.00
Eggville F.W.B. Church .....	48.96
Fawn Grove F.W.B. Church .....	482.23
Fellowship F.W.B. Church .....	774.41
First F.W.B. Church—Amory .....	1,100.28
First F.W.B. Church—Booneville .....	663.55

First F.W.B. Church—Columbus .....	1,396.00
First F.W.B. Church—Greenville .....	670.29
First F.W.B. Church—Jackson .....	104.19
First F.W.B. Church—Pascagoula .....	180.50
First F.W.B. Church—Philadelphia .....	180.00
First F.W.B. Church—Smithville .....	134.25
First F.W.B. Church—Iuka .....	297.15
First F.W.B. Church—Greenwood .....	107.00
Fulton F.W.B. Church .....	200.00
Lees Chapel F.W.B. Church—Jones County .....	190.00
Lees Chapel F.W.B. Church—WWAYNE County .....	453.22
Little Brown Cree F.W.B. Church .....	481.65
Lovewell F.W.B. Church .....	70.37
Main Street F.W.B. Church .....	547.22
Macedonia F.W.B. Church .....	60.00
Martin Hill F.W.B. Church .....	830.10
McGregor Chapel F.W.B. Church .....	400.00
Mount Pisgah F.W.B. Church .....	527.91
New Gauley F.W.B. Church .....	100.60
North Side F.W.B. Church .....	110.00
Pearce Chapel F.W.B. Church .....	2,124.24
Pine Grove F.W.B. Church-South Miss. ....	55.00
Trinity F.W.B. Church .....	25.00
Tupelo F.W.B. Church .....	3,845.71
Victory F.W.B. Church .....	683.80
North East Miss. Association of F.W.B. ....	255.58
Mississippi State Association-Offering .....	444.85
Little Brown Creek Association of F.W.B. ....	290.07
White Hill F.W.B. Church .....	100.00
Individual Gifts .....	409.00
Misc. ....	16.12
Total Receipts .....	\$20,887.79
Rev. Steve Nichols-Loan Payment .....	950.00
Balance Brought Forward .....	979.47
Total Receipts .....	22,817.26
Savings Account-Balance .....	5,000.00
Total Available Cash .....	\$27,817.26

Submitted By  
A.V. Armstrong,  
Treasurer

## MISSION FUND

### MISSION FUND DISBURSEMENTS

National Home Mission Board-Rev. Gore Account. ....	\$9,700.00
National Home Mission Board-Rev. Nichols Account .....	9,800.00
Designated to Building Fund-Personal-Etc. ....	1,063.54
Rev. Steve Nichols-Phone .....	76.97
Rev. Steve Nichols-Travel .....	218.80
Rev. Steve Nichols-Hospital Expense .....	150.00
Rev. J. L. Gore-Travel .....	155.65

Rev. J. L. Gore-Phone .....	232.80
Rev. J. L. Gore-Social Security .....	314.37
Mission Board-Travel .....	456.00
Mission Board-Phone .....	23.20
Mission Retreat .....	150.00
Total Disbursements .....	\$22,341.33
Total Available Cash .....	27,817.26
Less Disbursements .....	22,341.33
Checking Account .....	475.93
Savings Account .....	5,000.00
Mission Fund Balance—September 30, 1977 .....	\$5,475.93

**MISSISSIPPI MISSION BOARD—JACKSON PROJECT  
NATIONAL HOME MISSION BOARD ACCOUNT**

**RECEIPTS:**

Mission Fund-Mississippi .....	\$9,700.00
Direct Church and Individual Gifts .....	207.38
W.N.A.C. ....	925.94
Total Receipts .....	10,833.32
 Bal. Brought Forward .....	2,172.81
Total Available Cash .....	13,006.13

**DISBURSEMENTS:**

Rev. J. L. Gore—Salary .....	9,915.00
Designated By W.N.A.C.—Building Fund .....	642.00
Total Disbursements .....	\$10,557.00
 Total Available Cash .....	13,006.13
Less Disbursements .....	10,557.00
Balance September 30, 1977 .....	2,449.13

**MISSISSIPPI MISSION BOARD—GREENWOOD PROJECT  
NATIONAL HOME MISSION BOARD ACCOUNT**

**RECEIPTS:**

Mississippi Mission Fund .....	\$9,800.00
Direct Church and Individual Gifts .....	979.79
W.N.A.C. ....	1,229.39
Total Receipts .....	12,009.18
Balance Brought Forward .....	2,757.58
Total Available Cash .....	14,766.76

**DISBURSEMENTS:**

Rev. Steve Nichols—Salary .....	10,850.00
Rev. Steve Nichols—Social Security .....	423.00
Rev. Steve Nichols—Unknown .....	741.85
News Letter—Printing—Mailing .....	51.98
Total Disbursements .....	12,066.83

Total Available Cash .....	14,766.76
Balance September 30, 1977 .....	\$2,699.93
Submitted By	
A. V. Armstrong,	
Treasurer	

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

MISSISSIPPI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST FOR YEAR  
 BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 1976, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1977.

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS:

Bethel F.W.B. Church .....	\$80.26
Buckatunna F.W.B. Church .....	20.00
Corinth F.W.B. Church .....	462.19
County Line F.W.B. Church .....	60.00
Damascus F.W.B. Church .....	15.00
Fawn Grove F.W.B. Church .....	29.00
First F.W.B. Church—Amory .....	150.00
First F.W.B. Church—Columbus .....	95.00
First F.W.B. Church—Greenville .....	46.54
First F.W.B. Church—Jackson .....	10.00
First F.W.B. Church—Greenwood .....	214.60
Fellowship F.W.B. Church .....	5.00
Little Brown Creek Association .....	83.18
Lees Chapel F.W.B. Church—Jones County .....	79.96
Lees Chapel F.W.B. Church—Wayne County .....	306.22
Little Brown F.W.B. Church .....	26.00
Mount Pisgah F.W.B. Church .....	76.77
New Gauley F.W.B. Church .....	375.97
Smiths Chapel .....	10.00
Pearce Chapel F.W.B. Church .....	527.56
Individual Gifts .....	10.00
Tupelo F.W.B. Church .....	518.99
Miss. State Association—Offering .....	100.28
North East Ms. Association of F.W.B. ....	30.00
South Ms. Association of F.W.B. ....	70.00
Hudson Bible and Church Supplies .....	14.73
Gifts Sent to State Meeting .....	423.93
State Delegate Fees .....	400.00
State Church Training Service .....	110.00
Victory F.W.B. Church .....	125.50
Total Receipts .....	\$4,476.68
Balance Brought Forward .....	303.19
Total Available Cash .....	\$4,779.87

## DISBURSEMENTS:

Treasurer—Envelopes—Postage—Expense Allowance .....	218.84
Printing .....	2,026.78
Clerk and Messenger Expense Allowance .....	410.00
Messenger—Postage—Phone .....	684.02
Moderator—Travel .....	86.20
Delegates Fees to National Association .....	155.00
Executive Board—Travel .....	40.70
State Church Training Service .....	205.91
Designated to Outside Ministeries .....	549.36
Board of Conference and Itenrate .....	59.44
Pastor's Retreat .....	163.70
Total Disbursements .....	4,599.95
Total Available Cash .....	4,779.87
Less Disbursements .....	4,599.95

General Fund Balance—September 30, 1977 .....\$179.92

Submitted By  
A. V. Armstrong,  
Treasurer

## REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S HOME

### TO THE STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS IN MISSISSIPPI:

#### GREETINGS:

I deeply regret that I will be unable to attend the State Association this year. Circumstances have arisen that will not permit me to do so. The following will be my report:

It has been a great joy to be able to serve on the Board of Trustees of the FWB Children's Home at Eldridge, Alabama. I must confess, I am just now realizing just what my role as your representative entails. First of all, we must express our sincere appreciation to Bro. Carlton Lambert and his wife, and the wonderful staff, for the excellent work at the Home. Only eternity will reveal the impact their efforts have made on the lives of these youngsters God has sent to this institution.

Also I think it fitting to express our deepest thanks to the many faithful individuals and churches in the state who have stood by with their generous gifts. God will generously reward you.

The Children's Home has 22 children at present - 13 boys and 9 girls. We are hoping that soon this number will increase to our capacity which is 32.

David Hindman accepted the call to preach at the Bible Conference this year and has enrolled at the Bible College this semester. Pray for him. Michael Reed is still in the Army in Germany. Pray for these boys and the other youth who have gone out to make their living.

Numerous improvements have been made this year, some of which are the installation of a dish-washer, partial remodeling of the kitchen, installation of burglar bars on some windows and the purchase of a 1974 Ford Station Wagon to help in the transportation needs.

The Eldridge FWB Church property has been deeded over to the Trustees of the Children's Home. A new social worker, Miss Parker, has been hired and is doing a fine job. David and Cynthia Kent, and Joan Kennon have left the employ of the Home this year.

The Foster-Parent Plan is in need of \$1800 to replenish funds used this year.

The total cash available for the period beginning September 1, 1976 through August 31, 1977 is \$137,938.05. Total expenditures for this period were \$135,189.05.

The total cash support from the State of Mississippi for this period was \$6,190.06 - an average of \$515.84 per month.

The following is a breakdown of the support for the Home by percentage:

Alabama FWB Churches .....	34.3 percent
Other Alabama Sources .....	20.0
Georgia .....	13.4
Florida .....	8.1
Mississippi .....	4.7
New York .....	1.9
Sales & Coupons .....	4.0
Social Security Benefits .....	5.1
Other States .....	2.1
Alumni .....	2
Transfer of Funds .....	4.4
Bank Loan .....	1.8
	100.0 percent

I sincerely hope that in the year to come every church and every individual in our State will prayerfully consider including the Children's Home in their giving. Not only are there cash needs for the Home, but also the ever-present need for foods, clothing, household products, etc.

Again we want to tell you how much your gifts, in whatever form, have meant to the Home-the difference in eternal destiny for many.

Submitted by:

Rev. Donald R. Johnson  
Rt. 3 Box 89A  
Fulton, MS 38843

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE RECOMMENDATION

In session Thursday night, November 3, 1977, the Board of Missions and Church Extension passed a motion to "Recommend to the State Association to Delete Article VI, Section 3, Policy B, Item 4, of the State Constitution." (of Free Will Baptist).

This item reads: "The State Association Treasurer shall be a non-voting member of this Board and will meet with the Board only at the request of the Board.

All financial decisions made by the voting Board Members of the Board of Missions and Church Extension regarding its assigned ministries are binding upon the State Treasurer."

Ammendment reading: "This Board shall have the authority to select its treasurer from among its members."

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee and the Board of Conference and Itinerate Ministries of the Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptists met at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Amory, Mississippi, August 27, 1977 beginning at 10:00 a.m. to plan the program for the annual Bible Conference and the Mississippi State Association. Members present were Rev. William E. Adkinson, Moderator; Rev. Luther Gibson, Assist. Moderator; Rev. Daniel Gaskins, clerk; Rev. Bill Roberson, assist clerk; Brother A. V. Armstrong, Treasurer; and Board of Conference and Itinerate Ministries members Rev. Danny Dwyer and Bev. Mark Daniel. Moderator opened the meeting by reading Rev. 1: 20-30. He brought a very challenging devotion. Prayer by Rev. Bill Roberson.

We submit the following recommendations:

1. We planned the Annual Bible Conference and State Association programs.
2. We recommend that Rev. Bill Roberson be appointed on the Board of Missions and Church Extension to fill the unexpired term of Rev. Earl Langley who has moved out of the State.
3. We recommend that the churches take special Prayer meeting offerings two times per year, the second Wednesday night in December and the second Wednesday night in May for the State General Fund.
4. We recommend that we increase the clerk's and treasurer's fee from \$50.00 to \$75.00, and that we increase the miliage from 10c to 15c.
5. We recommend that we insert section c to article No. 6 under By-laws as follows-- Plan and promote Annual Pastor's and Laymen's Retreat on State level, expenses to be supplemented out of State General Fund.

## **CONSTITUTION OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST**

### **Article I—Name**

This body shall be known henceforth as the Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptist.

### **Article II—Purpose**

The object of this organization shall be to more thoroughly unify the work of the various Associations and Churches of Mississippi and to devise and execute measures for the extension of Christ's Kingdom in comnection with the various Associations and Churches comprising this organization.

### **Article III—Treatise of Faith and Practice**

This body adopts the Treatise of Fatih and Practice of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

## **Article IV—Membership**

Section 1. The membership of this Association shall consist of all Associations and Churches that from time to time, upon arrival of the State Association shall become members of this body.

Section 2. Representation: Each district association holding membership in the State Association shall be entitled to five (5) representatives elected from the laity, with an additional representative from each church comprising the District Association. Furthermore, all Ordained Ministers and Deacons and all Missionaries under the auspices of the State Mission Board holding membership in churches within this State Association shall be entitled to membership in this body.

Section 3. Any local church whose Association is not a member of the State Association, may be represented with one lay delegate and the ordained ministers and deacons of that church.

Section 4. It is understood that the Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptists and the area associations comprising its membership have no judicial authority over any local church.

Section 5. The Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptists, the yearly associations comprising its membership and their local churches do not grant any judicial authority to any representative body to which they may belong.

## **Article V—Officers**

The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, and Assistant Moderator, a Clerk, an Assistant Clerk, and Treasurer, each of whom shall be nominated and elected by a standing vote from the floor at each regular meeting.

Election shall be determined by a majority vote of those present and voting. Officers thus elected shall hold their positions until their successors are elected and installed.

## **Article VI—Board and Committees**

Section 1. The Executive Committee is a standing committee, composed of Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and Treasurer.

Section 2. This Association shall elect whatever boards and committees it deems necessary for its operation and shall state whether they are standing or temporary.

Section 3. Board of Missions and Church Extension:

- A. The Board of Missions and Church Extension is a standing Board composed of Five (5) members with terms up to five (5) years, with a board member going off each year.
- B. Policy:
  - (1) This board will have the authority to approve:
    - (a) The organization of the Mission into a church.
    - (b) Purchase date, location, and price of property purchased by the church or mission until all financial support be terminated.
  - (2) This Board shall have the authority to approve or disapprove the removal of a mission or church pastor, and to approve or disapprove the selection of a new pastor until all financial support be terminated.
  - (3) This Board will have the right and authority for five (5) years after financial support has terminated, in the event the work fails, or the church disbands or ceases to function, to recover any equity from the work in the form of property, securities, cash, or any other assets, and such recovered equity is to be used in future mission projects at the discretion of the Board. However, this does not mean that the Board will assume

any liabilities of the church for any direct indebtedness at any time.

- (4) This Board shall have the authority to select its treasurer from among its members.

Section 4. The Board of Christian Education is a standing board composed of five (5) members with terms up to five (5) years, with a member going off each year.

Section 5. The Board of Conference and Itinerate Ministries is a standing board composed of three (3) members with terms up to three (3) years, with a member going off each year.

Section 6. The Board of Historical Commission is a standing board composed of 3 members with terms up to three years, with a member going off each year.

Section 7. The Auditing Committee is a standing committee composed of 3 members with terms up to three years, with a member going off each year. It shall be the duty of this Board to meet with the treasurer for the purpose of auditing treasurer's books prior to the State Association and give annual report to the State Association.

#### **Article VII—Meeting**

This Association shall hold its regular meetings annually at a time and place fixed by the last regular session and made known before adjournment. Special meetings may be called by the Executive Committee when extreme necessity demands, providing that the Clerk of the Association has been properly notified at least fifteen (15) days before the date set for the meeting. Fifteen (15) legal representatives shall constitute a quorum for any special meetings of this Association.

#### **Article VIII—Representative Fees**

This body requests that each Association holding membership in this Association give a representative fee of thirty (\$30.00) per year and each local church give a representative fee of fifteen (\$15.00) per year.

#### **Article IX—Amendments**

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 and tabled in the morning session and voted during the afternoon session.

### **BY-LAWS OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

1. The Moderator or the Assistant Moderator shall call the Association to order at the hour designated by the program committee. When either the Moderator or the Assistant Moderator is present, the Executive Committee shall elect a Moderator Pro-tem, who shall call the association to order.

2. (a) It shall be the duty of the clerk to record and have printed annually the minutes of the Association.

(b) To enroll the delegates to this Association who shall present themselves with the proper evidence of their rights to seats therein, and those enrolled by the Clerk shall compose the Association. In case of questionable representation however, the case under question shall be referred to a credential committee.

- (c) The Clerk shall be given fifty dollars (\$50.00) per year for his time, effort and personal expenses in preparation of the State minutes.
- 3. (a) It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to hold all Associational funds and disperse same as authorized by the Association.  
(b) The Treasurer shall be paid fifty dollars (\$50.00) per year to cover his time and effort and personal expenses in preparing monthly and yearly reports.
- 4. The Executive Committee shall act on behalf of the Association when the Association is not in session. Any action taken by this committee shall be submitted in report to the Association.
- 5. Board of Missions and Church Extension: It shall be the duty of this Board to:
  - (a) Receive and disburse money allocated them by the State and other money.
  - (b) To promote the organization of new churches.
  - (c) To give complete report of all funds received, disbursements and progress made to the State Association.
- 6. Board of Conference and Itinerate Ministries: It shall be the duty of the board to:
  - (a) Work in conjunction with our National Departments in planning Itinerates and Conference speakers for the benefit of the local churches.
  - (b) To plan programs for Bible Conference on a State level.
- 7. Board of Christian Education. It shall be the duty of this Board to:
  - (a) Promote all phases of educational work in the State Association.
  - (b) To be a link from the local church to the National level.
  - (c) Promote teaching materials and personnel for educational programs in the church.
  - (d) Plan and promote Sunday School and CTS Rallies on the State level.Expenses of promotional literature, such as correspondence, special promotions, etc., to be paid out of General Fund.
- 8. Board of Historical Commission: It shall be the duty of this Board to:
  - (a) Obtain all possible information about the history of Free Will Baptists in Mississippi.
  - (b) Maintain a current record of progress.
  - (c) Give a progress report annually at each session of the State Association.
- 9. Travel shall be paid by this Association at the rate of ten (10) cents per mile plus compensation for food and lodging for all members of standing boards while transacting business authorized by, or in behalf of the Association, or promotional work over the State. The Treasurer shall pay such expenses when written claim is presented by each individual involved.
- 10. The Moderator when serving this Association in promotional services shall be paid \$4.00 for each service conducted in addition to mileage.
- 11. The Moderator shall appoint a committee on committees which shall present to the body nominations for such committees as necessary.
- 12. That we receive the letters and seat the delegates on the strength of the Credentials Committee report and omit public reading of the letters; all letters to be mailed with the representative fee to the State Association Clerk by the first of the month in which meetings are to be held.
- 13. A Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the Moderator if he deems it necessary, and any questions as to Parliamentary procedure, Robert's Rules of Order shall be final authority on the subject.
- 14. The Editor of the Mississippi Messenger shall be paid \$30.00 per issue for his labor and personal expenses in preparing Messenger.

15. These By-laws 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 and tabled in the morning session and voted on during the afternoon session.

16. The Mississippi State Associational Year will begin on October 1 and end on September 30.