

**MINUTES**  
of the  
**NINETEENTH ANNUAL SESSION**  
of the  
**Free Will Baptists**

When Convened With  
**TUPELO FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI

November 4 & 5, 1983

The Next Session Will Be Held  
With The  
**Gulf Coast Free Will Baptist Church**  
Gulfport, Mississippi

Friday and Saturday  
before the first Sunday  
in November, 1984

# **MISSISSIPPI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

Moderator..... Rev. Luther Gibson  
134 North Lake, Booneville, MS 38829  
Assistant Moderator..... Rev. Eddie Vincent  
504 9th Ave., North, Amory, MS  
Clerk..... Rev. Robert Dykes  
Rt. 2, Box 143-C, Eupora, MS 39744  
Assistant Clerk..... Rev. Ken Driggers  
Rt. 1, Box 96, Richton, MS 39476  
Treasurer..... Tommy Wright  
Rt. 4, Box 98, Booneville, MS 38829

## **Board of Missions and Church Extension**

Bro. Jimmie Byrd – 1984  
Rev. Gerald Gann – 1985 (Fill unexpired term of John Pake)  
Rev. Johnny Sexton – 1986  
Rev. J. L. Gore – 1987  
Rev. Bill Van Winkle – 1988 (to replace Rev. Al Hamm)

## **Board of Christian Education**

From Little Brown – Steve Jones – 1985  
From Northeast – Ron Blevins – 1986  
From South – Theon Walley – 1984 (to replace Vernon Walley)

## **Board of Conference and Itenerate Ministries**

Rev. Milton Fields – 1984  
Rev. Gene Gilbert – 1985  
Rev. Clyde Eldridge – 1986

## **Board of Historical Commission**

Rev. Leander McAdams – 1984  
Bro. Tony Holifield – 1985  
Rev. Wayne Yarbrough – 1986

## **Auditing Committee**

Rev. Steve Nichols – 1984  
Rev. Malcolm Garrett – 1985  
Rev. Jakie Creech – 1986

# DIGEST REPORT OF THE CHURCHES AND ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTED AT THE 1983 MISS. STATE ASSOCIATION

CHURCH and DELEGATE	PASTOR	CLERK
Antioch FWB Church Burnsville, Ms.	Rev. Glen Jones Rt. 6, Box 312 Corinth, Ms. 38834	Doris Bray Rt. 2, Iuka, Ms. 38852
Antioch FWB Church Rt. 1, Randolph, Ms. 38864		Z.J. Waugh Randolph, Ms. 38864
Beech Springs Rt. 2, Box 448 Saltillo, Ms. 38866	Rev. Robert Hesselmeyer Rt. 2, Box 448 Saltillo, Ms. 38866	Suzanne Stamey Rt. 1, N.T. 18 Tupelo, Ms. 38801
Bethel Rt. 3, Richton, Ms. 39476	Rev. Norman Nowell Rt. 3, Richton, Ms. 39476	Mrs. Troy Hinton 406 South 23rd Ave. Hattiesburg, Ms. 39401
Bethlehem Rt. 2, Pontotoc, Ms.		
Buckatunna Rt. 1, Box 146 Buckatunna, Ms. 39322	Rev. Andy Hoeflich Rt. 1 Buckatunna, Ms. 39322	Pauline Burgess Rt. 1, Box 146 Buckatunna, Ms. 39322
Burgess Creek Rt. 2, Tishomingo, Ms. 38873		Mara Nell Crowell Rt. 2, Box 45M Tishomingo, Ms. 38873
Charity Rt. 6 Laurel, Ms. 39440		
Community Rt. 3, Corinth, Ms. 38824	Rev. Malcolm Garrett Rt. 2, Box 177 Mickie, Tn. 38357	Patricia Bonds Rt. 1, Box 11 Guys, Tn. 38339
Corinth Rt. 3 Waynesboro, Ms. 39367	Rev. Clyde Eldridge Rt. 3, Waynesboro, Ms. 39367	Edna E. Nowell Rt. 3, Waynesboro, Ms.
County Line Rt. 2, Box 245 Richton, Ms. 39476	Rev. Carter Brewer Rt. 1, Richton, Ms. 39476	Gay Dykes Rt. 2, Box 267 Richton, Ms. 39476
Damascus Rt. 1, DeKalb, Ms. 39328	Rev. Lavender	Mrs. C.C. McKee Rt. 1, Box 160 DeKalb, Ms. 39328

CHURCH and DELEGATE	PASTOR	CLERK
Depriest Chapel P.O. Box 125 Galtman, Ms. 38844		
Eggville Rt. 4, Box 361A Tupelo, Ms. 38801	Rev. Gerald Gann	Mrs. Elsie Parmer Rt. 1, Mooreville, Ms. 38857
Faith Golden, Ms.		
Faith 4755 McWillie Dr. Jackson, Ms. 39206	Rev. J.L. Gore 136 Mayfair Jackson, Ms. 39212	
Fawn Grove Rt. 1, Mantachie, Ms. 38855	Rev. Phil Davis Rt. 1, Box 105A Mantachie, Ms. 38855	Carolyn Franks Rt. 1, Box 211 Mantachie, Ms. 38855
Fellowship Rt. 1, Box 96 Richton, Ms. 39476	Rev. Ken Driggers Rt. 1, Box 96 Richton, Ms. 39476	Linda Little Rt. 1, Box 98 Richton, Ms. 39476
First-Amory 501 9th Ave. N. Amory, Ms. 38821	Rev. Eddie Vincent 504 9th Ave. N. Amory, Ms. 38821	
First-Booneville Booneville, Ms. 38829	Rev. Luther Gibson 134 N. Lake St. Booneville, Ms.	Mary Bullard Rt. 3, Rienzi, Ms. 38865
First-Columbus Columbus, Ms.	Rev. Milton Fields 613 Browder St. Columbus, Ms. 39701	Patsy Blevins 1800 Main St. Columbus, Ms. 39701
First-Greenville Greenville, Ms.		
First-Iuka Iuka, Ms.	Rev. Leonard Casabella	
First-Oxford Oxford, Ms.	Rev. George Crowden Oxford, Ms. 38655	Bobbie Frizzell Rt. 1, Box 664 Oxford, Ms. 38655
First-Pascagoula 2708 Chico Pascagoula, Ms. 39567		
First-Pearl Pearl, Ms.	Rev. J.L. Gore 136 Mayfair Jackson, Ms. 39212	Barbara Romines 409 Sarah St. Pearl, Ms. 39208

CHURCH and DELEGATE	PASTOR	CLERK
First-Philadelphia Philadelphia, Ms. 39350	Rev. Leander McAdams Rt. 2, Box 814 Columbus, Ms. 39701	Mrs. H.G. Cooper, Sr. P.O. Box 332 Philadelphia, Ms. 39350
First-Smithville Smithville, Ms.		
First-Richton Rt. 2, Richton, Ms. 39476	Rev. Frank Henderson Rt. 3, Waynesboro, Ms. 39367	Vickie Kelly Rt. 1, Box 9-A, Richton, Ms. 39476
First-Waynesboro Waynesboro, Ms. 39367		
Fulton FWB Church Fulton, Ms.	Rev. Bill VanWinkle	
Gulf Coast FWB Church Gulfport, Ms.	Rev. Ralph Hester	
Jones Chapel FWB Ch. Rt. 6, Corinth, Ms. 38834	Rev. Wayne Yarbrough Saltillo, Ms. 38866	Peggy Stacks Rt. 3, Blue Springs, Ms. 38828
Lee's Chapel FWB (Wayne Co.) Rt. 5, Waynesboro, Ms. 39367	Rev. Glen Shelby Rt. 5, Waynesboro, Ms. 39367	Nancy Anderson Rt. 5, Box 472 Waynesboro, Ms. 39367
Lee's Chapel (Jones Co.) Rt. 6, Box 85 Laurel, Ms. 39440	Rev. Bobby Martin Rt. 6, Box 85 Laurel, Ms. 39440	Glenda Aricer Rt. 6, Box 1040 Laurel, Ms. 39440
Lovewell FWB Church Rt. 1, Richton, Ms. 39476		
Little Brown Creek FWB Rt. 1, New Site, Ms. 38859	Rev. Gene Gilbert	Betty Akers Rt. 5, Booneville, Ms. 38829
Macedonia Rt. 1, Rienzi, Ms. 38865	Rev. Karl Sexton Rt. 5, Booneville, Ms. 38829	Ruby Whittemore Rt. 1, Rienzi, Ms. 38865
Main St. FWB Church Roanoke Circle Amory, Ms. 38821	Rev. L.B. Nix Sulligent, Ala.	
Martin Hill FWB Church Rt. 5, Booneville, Ms. 38829	Rev. Johnny Sexton Rt. 5, Booneville, Ms. 38829	Peggie Griffin Rt. 5, Box 109 Booneville, Ms. 38829

<b>CHURCH and DELEGATE</b>	<b>PASTOR</b>	<b>CLERK</b>
McGregor's Chapel FWB Rt. 5, Box 409 Pontotoc, Ms. 38863	Rev. Norlin Jones	Faye Moore Rt. 5, Box 438 Pontotoc, Ms. 38863
Meadowbrook Rd. FWB Meadowbrook Road Greenwood, Ms.	Rev. Steve Nichols 709 Linden Greenwood, Ms.	
Mt. Pisgah FWB Rt. 7, Booneville, Ms. 38829	Rev. Hollis Southerland Rt. 4, Box 317A Savannah, Tn. 38372	Estle Gann Booneville, Ms. 38829
New Gauley FWB Rt. 2, Box 182A Calhoun City, Ms.	Rev. Bill Robinson 2613 Bryan Dr. Tupelo, Ms. 38801	Linda Doler Calhoun City, Ms.
New Lebanon FWB Rt. 1, Box 32 (%Houston Gann) Burnsville, Ms. 38833	Rev. Gerald Taylor	Voughanda Hall Rt. 2, Box 255 A1 Tishomingo, Ms. 38873
New Life FWB Houlka, Ms.		
Northside FWB 14th Ave. & Waterworks Columbus, Ms. 39701		
Pearce Chapel FWB Rt. 1, Box 341 Smithville, Ms.	Rev. Grady Runyon Rt. 1, Box 341 Smithville, Ms.	Madgie Robinson Rt. 1, Box 336 Smithville, Ms. 38870
Petal FWB Petal, Ms.	Rev. Tillis Walley Richton, Ms. 39476	Rachel Walley Rt. 1, Richton, Ms. 39476
Pine Grove FWB West Point, Ms.		
Pine Grove FWB Rt. 1, Buckatunna, Ms.	Rev. Lenarse Strickland Rt. 1, Buckatunna, Ms.	Betty Holyfield Rt. 1, Box 95C Buckatunna, Ms. 39322
Pleasant Grove FWB Rt. 1, Thaxton, Ms.		
Smith Chapel FWB Booneville, Ms. 38829		Tina Johnson Rt. 1, Box 379 Booneville, Ms. 38829

CHURCH and DELEGATE	PASTOR	CLERK
Springdale FWB Rt. 6 Oxford, Ms.	Rev. Jackie Barnard Rt. 6, Box 35 Oxford, Ms.	
Thompson Creek FWB Waynesboro, Ms. 39367		
Tupelo FWB Tupelo, Ms. 38801	Rev. Jakie Creech	Shirley Harrell 1400 Elvis Presley Dr. Tupelo, Ms. 38801
Victory FWB Columbus, Ms.	Rev. Al Hamm Columbus, Ms.	
West Memphis FWB West Memphis, Ark.		
White Hill FWB Rt. 2, Box 234A Eupora, Ms. 39744	Rev. Robert Dykes Rt. 2, Box 143-C Eupora, Ms.	Elloyce Nelms Rt. 4, Box 220A Eupora, Ms. 39744

### NAMES OF ASSOCIATIONS

Delta-Central, Little Brown Creek, Northeast, South Mississippi.  
Total Finances Received With Church and Associational Letters:

State General Fund.....	\$ 360.00
Missions.....	\$ 285.00
Representative Fees.....	\$2045.00

### STATISTICS:

*(Based on information turned in by local churches)*

Number of churches: 58      Combined total membership (not available)  
Number of baptisms: 193      New members: 288      Lost: 179  
Number of parsonages: 20      Combined value of parsonages (not avail.)  
Number of churches giving to Cooperative Plan: 1  
Number of churches designating gifts to outside causes: 32  
Number of churches participating in Retirement & Insurance Plan: 4  
Number of churches providing insurance for pastor: 6  
Number of ordained ministers: 71      Licensed ministers: 8  
Number of mid-week prayer meetings: N/A      Average attendance: N/A  
Number of ordained deacons in quarterly meeting: 182  
Combined Sunday School enrollment: 2688      Average attendance: 2202  
Combined CTS enrollment: 1148      Average attendance: N/A  
Combined WNAC enrollment: 402      Average attendance: N/A  
Combined Master's Men enrollment: 127      Average attendance: N/A

**FINANCES:**

Total income of all member churches: \$495,222.44  
Total local expenditures: \$279,539.77

Outside giving as follows:

Cooperative Plan: \$2177.03  
National Executive Office: \$-0-  
Foreign Missions: \$9764.79  
Layman's Board: \$-0-  
Church Training Service: \$ -0-  
Free Will Baptist Bible College: \$1358.49  
Retirement & Insurance Board: \$ -0-  
Home Missions and Church Extension: \$8828.88  
Other National Ministries: \$80.00  
District or State Ministries: \$17,657.60  
Other causes: \$2691.98

**BIBLE CONFERENCE**  
**November 4 & 5, 1983**  
**Rev. Jakie Creech, Presiding**  
**Jeff Halliburton, Song Leader**

9:30 a.m. Welcome..... Host Pastor  
Hymn and Prayer  
10:00 a.m. Message..... Rev. George Crowden  
10:40 a.m. Message..... Rev. Gerald Taylor  
11:20 a.m. Recess  
11:30 a.m. Message..... Rev. Steve Nichols  
12:30 p.m. Lunch  
1:30 p.m. Hymn and Prayer  
1:35 p.m. Message..... Rev. Glenn Shelby  
2:10 p.m. Recess

## MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATIONAL MEETING

### FRIDAY NIGHT SESSION

The Friday night session was opened at 7:00 p.m. with the congregation singing, "All Hail the Power" led by Jeff Halliburton. Prayer by Rev. Leander McAdams.

A report of the Committee on Committees was given. Motion was made and carried to accept this report.

Special singing by a trio from the host church "Ten Thousand Years."

Report from the Foreign Missions Department was given by Rev. Eugene Waddell. Motion was made to accept this report as information.

Congregation singing, "Victory In Jesus."

Report from Free Will Baptist Bible College was given by Dr. Picirilli. Report was accepted as information.

Special singing by Bro. Eddie Vincent, "The Haven of Rest."

The Friday evening message was brought by Dr. Robert Picirilli. His text was II Timothy 3:14-17.

Dismissed in prayer.

### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The Saturday morning session was opened with congregational singing, Power in the Blood."

Prayer by Rev. Clyde Eldridge.

Prayer meeting: Rev. Tommy Wright took his text from Acts 12:1-15.

Congregational singing, "Joy Unspeakable."

A report from the Children's Home was given by Rev. Edd Warren. This report was accepted as information.

A report of the Woman's Auxiliary was made and accepted as information to be entered in the state minutes.

A partial report of the nomination committee was given. Motion was made to accept this partial report.

A partial report of the Resolutions Committee was given. Motion was made to accept this report and vote item by item. (See report).

A report from the National Executive Office was given by Rev. Milton Worthington. This report was accepted as information.

A report of the Home Missions Department was given by Bro. Trymon Messer and accepted as information.

The morning message was brought by Rev. Gerald Gann.

Dismissed for lunch.

The afternoon session opened with singing, "We'll Work Til Jesus Comes." Prayer.

A report of the Master's Men was given by Bro. Jim Valance and accepted as information.

A report of the State Mission Board was given by Bro. J.L. Gore and Bro. Johnny Sexton.

A report of the Auditing Committee was made. Motion was made and carried to accept this report.

A report of the Treasurer was given. Motion was made to accept this report.

A final report of the Resolution Committee was made. Motion made to accept and vote item by item.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Executive Committee and the Board of Conference and Itinerate Ministries met at First Free Will Baptist Church of Columbus, Miss. on Aug. 20, 1983, at 10:00 a.m. to plan the annual Bible Conference and State Association Meeting.

The meeting was opened with scripture and prayer by Eddie Vincent.

The State Mission Board also met with this committee on this day. Bro. Gore informed us that Rev. Karl Novak had resigned as Pastor of the Greenville Church. The church is not able to meet its financial debts and has requested that the Mission Board reclaim the church as a mission church. The church is running 30-35 in attendance.

Bro. Eddie Vincent made a motion that the Mission Board be given the authority to work with the Greenville church as per the resolution. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Luther Gibson

Rev. Eddie Vincent

Rev. Tommy Wright

Rev. Milton Fields

Rev. Gene Gilbert

## **COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES REPORT**

We, the Committee on Committees, submit the following recommendations:

Nominating Committee:

Rev. George Crowden

Rev. Glenn Jones

Rev. Ken Driggers

Resolutions Committee:

Rev. Robert Hesselmeyer

Rev. Gerald Taylor

Rev. Glen Shelby

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Phil Davis

Rev. Steve Nichols

Rev. Gene Gilbert

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

We, the Nominating Committee, submit the following names for nomination:

Moderator: Rev. Luther Gibson  
Asst. Moderator: Rev. Eddie Vincent  
Clerk: Rev. Robert Dykes  
Asst. Clerk: Rev. Ken Driggers  
Treasurer: Rev. Tommy Wright  
Editor of Messenger: Bro. Billy Tabb

### **Board of Missions and Church Extension**

Rev. Gerald Gann - 1985 (to fill unexpired term of John Pake)  
Rev. Bill Van Winkle - 1988 (to replace Al Hamm)

### **Board of Conference and Itinerate Ministries**

Rev. Clyde Eldridge - 1986 (to replace Rev. Bobby Martin)

### **Board of Christian Education**

Ron Blevins - 1986 (to replace Don Holland)  
Theon Walley - 1984 (to replace Vernon Walley)

### **Board of Historical Commission**

Wayne Yarbrough - 1986 (to replace Hollis Southerland)

### **Auditing Committee**

Jakie Creech - 1986 (to replace Wayne Yarbrough)

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. George Crowden  
Rev. Ken Driggers  
Rev. Glen Jones

## **REPORT OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

1. Whereas the Executive Committee of the Ms. Assn. of FWB has recommended that our State Mission Board enter into discussion with the Greenville congregation to assume a leadership role in maintaining the work and ministry of the Greenville congregation

And whereas our State Mission Board has agreed to this relationship

Be it resolved that this body instruct our State Mission Board to proceed in said discussion and relationship

Be it further resolved that every pastor encourage his church to be actively involved in helping carry the financial load of missions.  
(Carried.)

2. Whereas the Delta-Central Assn. of FWB has requested membership into our State Assn.

Be it resolved that the Delta-Central Assn. be accepted into full fellowship of our Assn. (Carried.)

3. Whereas the Delta-Central Assn. has petitioned and been received into our State Assn.

Be it resolved that Art. 6, Sec. 4,5,6, and 7 of our constitution be amended to read four members instead of three to allow their representation on the various boards of our State Association (Carried).

4. Whereas our State Assn. has no standard of dress or conduct for its CTS competitive activities

Be it resolved that our State Assn. adopt the standards established by our National Sunday School and CTS dept. (Carried.)

5. Whereas our Moderator and Assistant Moderator going to the Leadership Conference this past year has helped in the overall work of our State and National ministries

Be it resolved that we send our Moderator and Assistant Moderator to the Leadership Conference annually. (Carried.)

6. Whereas the Pastor and people of the Tupelo Church have done an excellent job of hosting our State Assn.

Be it resolved that we give them a standing vote of thanks. (Carried.)

7. Whereas Bro. Tommy Wright had to assume leadership responsibility of our CTS competitive activities at the last minute and provided excellent and generous leadership

Be it resolved that we commend his effort by a standing vote of thanks. (Carried.)

8. Whereas there has been some problems with officers and/or board members of different areas of our state work that have not performed their duties.

Be it resolved that if any officer or board member does not fulfill his functions as an elected official that he be replaced at the next State Meeting. (Carried.)

9. Whereas a person filling an office in our State Association has a great responsibility

Be it resolved that our quarterly associations share with the state nominating committee candidates they feel might be worthy of the office. (Carried.)

Robert Hesselmeier  
Glen Shelby  
Gerald Taylor

## REPORT OF BOARD OF CONFERENCE AND ITINERATE MINISTRIES

We the Conference and Itinerate Ministries Committee did meet with the Executive Committee in Columbus in August of this year. We adopted the program for the Mississippi State Association and Bible Conference.

There have been no other meetings of this committee this year.

This committee will be glad to work in any way to help promote state conferences, if it is the desire of this body.

Respectfully submitted,  
G. Gene Gilbert  
Rev. Milton Fields

### MISS. STATE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT 1982-83

#### DESIGNATED FUNDS (received & expended)

WNAC General Fund	\$ 550.52
Bible College	27.50
Student Loan	231.61
Home Mission	435.39
Foreign Missions	566.17
Co-Labor	494.65
Pre-Thanksgiving	389.91
Pre-Easter	303.00
Pre-Christmas	67.00
District Projects	3,349.96
	6,415.71

#### STATE PROJECT

Little Brown	1,499.25
Northeast	2,327.00
South Miss.	522.42
Pearl Church	44.00
	4,392.67

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD		\$192.64
State Meeting Nov. 1982		
Receipts	577.40	
Expenditures	573.45	
		3.95

State Retreat Aug. 1983

Receipts

659.80

Expenditures

657.17

2.63

Membership dues

93.25

Balance

292.47

## REPORT OF AUDITING COMMITTEE

We have examined the books of both the State Treasurer and Mission Board Treasurer and found them in order.

Furthermore, we commend the Treasurers for their preciseness and thoroughness in performing duties.

Respectfully,

Rev. Steve Nichols

Rev. Malcolm Garrett

Rev. Wayne Yarbrough

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### MISSISSIPPI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS FOR YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1983

#### GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS:

Representative fees from churches	\$ 1740.00
Representative fees from associations	150.00
Designated gifts	1177.12
Receipts from state CTS competition	115.00
Dues to national association	290.00
Interest	79.37
Gifts to general fund	<u>3301.38</u>
Total receipts	\$ 6852.87
Add beginning balance	<u>2197.28</u>
Funds available for use	9050.15
Less total disbursements	<u>7810.51</u>
Ending balance 9/30/83	<u><u>\$ 1239.64</u></u>

Submitted by: Tommy Wright,  
Treasurer

## GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS:

Salary:			
A.V. Armstrong	\$	100.00	
Billy Tabb		1200.00	
Tommy Wright		100.00	
Robert Dykes		<u>100.00</u>	\$ 1500.00
Printing:			
Messenger		3280.94	
Minutes 1982		329.70	
Minutes 1983		<u>268.00</u>	3878.64
Travel:			
Bro. Luther Gibson		99.40	
Bro. Eddie Vincent		<u>120.14</u>	219.54
Postage and phone:			
Messenger		40.00	
Treasurer		40.00	
Clerk		<u>60.00</u>	140.00
Delegate fees:			
T.J. Armstrong		15.00	
Ellie McMillon		15.00	
Leadership conference		<u>60.00</u>	90.00
Supplies:			
Star Printing		39.90	
Peoples bank		7.36	
Randall House (CTS)		<u>67.95</u>	115.21
Designated gifts:			
Home missions		220.86	
Mississippi missions		576.50	
Foreign missions		120.04	
Bible college		150.05	
Childrens home		90.03	
Morganwood		<u>19.64</u>	1177.12
National Youth Conference			110.00
National Association representative fees			<u>580.00</u>
Total Disbursements			<u><u>7810.51</u></u>

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR OCTOBER 1, 1982  
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 1983

## RECEIPTS FROM CHURCHES

Antioch F.W.B. Church (Burnsville).....	\$ 720.00
Bethel F.W.B. Church.....	718.94
Bethlehem F.W.B. Church.....	200.00
Buckatunna F.W.B. Church.....	170.00
Corinth F.W.B. Church.....	518.64
County Line (S. Ms. Assoc.).....	360.00
Damascus F.W.B. Church.....	60.00
Eggville F.W.B. Church.....	854.77
Faith F.W.B. Church (Jackson).....	160.00
Fawn Grove F.W.B. Church.....	789.70
Fellowship F.W.B. Church.....	5,692.03
First F.W.B. Church - Booneville.....	910.00
First F.W.B. Church - Columbus.....	680.00
First F.W.B. Church - Greenville.....	82.00
First F.W.B. Church - Pearl.....	90.00
First F.W.B. Church - Petal.....	50.00
Fulton F.W.B. Church.....	1,071.96
Greenwood F.W.B. Church.....	100.00
Gulf Coast F.W.B. Church.....	825.00
Jones Chapel F.W.B. Church (Lt. Brn. Assn.).....	500.00
Lee's Chapel F.W.B. Church (Jones County).....	567.22
Lee's Chapel F.W.B. Church (Wayne County).....	994.98
Little Brown F.W.B. Church.....	316.35
Lovewell F.W.B. Church.....	408.44
Main Street F.W.B. Church (Amory).....	515.25
Martin Hill F.W.B. Church.....	1,480.64
Mount Pisgah F.W.B. Church.....	1,994.00
North Side F.W.B. Church (Columbus).....	100.00
Pearce Chapel F.W.B. Church.....	2,722.69
Pine Grove F.W.B. Church.....	300.00
Smith Chapel F.W.B. Church.....	140.00
Victory F.W.B. Church.....	1,312.16
White Hill F.W.B. Church.....	577.36
TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM CHURCHES.....	\$25,982.13
RECEIPTS FROM INDIVIDUALS.....	\$ 609.00

## MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS

Richton Bank (error on deposit) . . . . .	\$ .44
Amory Federal (transfer from savings to checking) . . .	6,664.82
Richton Bank (Transfer from savings to checking) . . .	245.11
Little Brown Creek Assoc. Youth Rally . . . . .	1,354.45
South Mississippi Assoc. . . . .	860.00
Mississippi State Assoc. . . . .	126.65
Northeast Assoc. . . . .	100.00
South Mississippi District Master's Men. . . . .	100.00
Loan from Richton Bank (\$50,000 less \$150.00 closing cost) . . . . .	49,850.00
Fellowship C.T.S. Teen Class. . . . .	63.65
Fellowship Master's Men. . . . .	763.00
Fellowship Ladies Auxiliary. . . . .	205.00
Martin Hill Ladies Auxiliary. . . . .	286.64
Smith's Chapel Ladies Auxiliary. . . . .	100.00
Little Brown Crk. Bible Inst. . . . .	120.00
Jackson Master's Men. . . . .	50.00
New Gauley Sunday School Dept. . . . .	75.50
Burgess Creek Sunday School Dept. . . . .	50.00
<b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS. . . . .</b>	<b>\$61,015.26</b>

## LT. BROWN CRK. ASSN. MARCH FOR MISSIONS

Antioch. . . . .	\$ 450.00
Burgess Crk. Church Sunday School Dept. . . . .	50.00
Little Brown Crk. Youth Rally. . . . .	1149.45
Jones Chapel. . . . .	500.00
Mount Pisgah. . . . .	400.00
Martin Hill Women Aux. . . . .	286.64
Smith Chapel. . . . .	100.00
Smith Chapel Women Aux. . . . .	100.00
<b>Total. . . . .</b>	<b>\$ 3036.09</b>

## NORTHEAST ASSN. MARCH FOR MISSIONS

Fawn Grove. . . . .	\$ 94.60
Fulton. . . . .	191.65
Greenwood. . . . .	100.00
Main St. (Amory). . . . .	160.00
New Gauley F.W.B. Ch. Sunday School Dept. . . . .	75.50
Pearce Chapel. . . . .	484.13
Victory. . . . .	870.23
White Hill Sunday School Dept. . . . .	491.36
<b>Total. . . . .</b>	<b>\$ 2467.47</b>

SOUTH MS. MARCH FOR MISSIONS

Corinth. ....	\$ 151.23
Buckatunna. ....	170.00
Bethel. ....	466.72
Fellowship. ....	1515.00
Fellowship Master's Men. ....	763.00
Fellowship Ladiex Aux. ....	205.00
Pine Grove. ....	300.00
Jackson's Master's Men. ....	50.00
Pearl. ....	50.00
County Line. ....	300.00
First Petal. ....	50.00
Lee's Chapel (Wayne County). ....	333.00
Total. ....	\$ 4353.95
TOTAL MARCH FOR MISSIONS. ....	\$ 9857.51

TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR OCT. 1, 1982 - SEPT. 30, 1983

CHURCHES. ....	\$25,982.13
INDIVIDUALS. ....	609.00
MISCELLANEOUS. ....	4,255.33
	\$30,846.46
TRANSFER FROM AMORY FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN TO CHECKING ACCOUNT. .	\$ 6,664.82
TRANSFER FROM RICHTON BANK SAVINGS TO CHECKING ACCOUNT. ....	\$ 245.11
LOAN FROM RICHTON BANK FOR \$50,000.00 LESS \$150.00 CLOSING COSTS. ....	\$49,850.00
BROUGHT FORWARD FROM SEPT. 30 1982 IN CHECKING ACCOUNT. ....	\$10,911.51
TOTAL IN CHECKING RECEIPTS. ....	\$98,517.90

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## DISBURSEMENTS

To Missionary Ralph Hester:

1. Mileage/Meals/Lodging. . . . .	\$ 1,225.17
2. 1982 Social Security. . . . .	1,148.08
3. Phone/Stamps. . . . .	40.22
4. Refund from building project. . . . .	538.00
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	\$ 2,951.47

To Missionary Steve Nichols:

1. 1982 Social Security. . . . .	\$ 620.00
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Mission Board Expenses:

1. Mileage/Meals/Lodging. . . . .	\$ 810.76
2. Phone/Stamps. . . . .	77.80
3. Miscellaneous (printing & supplies). . . . .	380.79
4. Treasurer's Honorarium (\$10/month). . . . .	10.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 1,279.35

National Home Missions

1. Ralph Hester Account. . . . .	\$ 8,869.38
2. Steve Nichols Account. . . . .	517.60
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	\$ 9,386.98

### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

1. Loan or gift to Greenville Church. . . . .	\$ 4,500.00
2. Payment on \$50,000 loan (principal). . . . .	10,000.00
3. Interest on loan. . . . .	3,125.00
4. Water and sewage hook up (Gulf Coast) Johnson Const. Co. . . . .	4,000.00
5. Air conditioner (Gulf Coast) Compton Appliance. . . . .	6,914.00
6. Rugs for church sanctuary (Gulf Coast). . . . .	2,140.80
7. Payments to Oscar Burnett (contractor). . . . .	50,505.00
8. Payment to lawyer (Tom Sims) to draw up loan papers. . . . .	100.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 81,284.80

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS. . . . . \$95,522.60

TOTAL RECEIPTS AND BALANCE FORWARDED  
FROM SEPTEMBER 30, 1982. . . . . \$98,517.90

LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS. . . . . 95,522.60

BALANCE FOR YEAR SEPTEMBER 30, 1983. . . . . \$ 2,995.30

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Free Will Baptists in Mississippi had one (1) missionary on the field this associational year, Bro. Ralph Hester and his wife, Delores. During this year we have placed Bro. Hester and his flock in a building on Three Rivers Road in Gulfport. The property is worth around \$150,000 to \$175,000. The board has a \$40,000 outstanding loan on the building and land. Bro. Hester and the members have and \$8,000 outstanding loan attached to the original loan for furniture on a 6 month renewal status. It is the desire of the mission board for Bro. Hester to take up \$500 per month of his salary (he has agreed) on January 1, 1984.

Greenville Church has asked to come back under mission board control for both leadership and financial help. The state executive board has authorized this pending associational approval.

This has been a year for the board to step out on faith and total dependance on our Lord for the needs of our missions program. We must ask the Lord's people to underwrite our works in Mississippi. We have no others to look to, but His people.

We, the board, wish to express our appreciation to those who have been faithful and stood by with help and prayers.

### **PRAISE ITEMS**

1. Souls have been saved.
2. Safe travel for our missionary.
3. Having a building to worship in at Gulfport.
4. For good health with Bro. Ralph and Delores.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

1. The bank note on Gulf Coast Church be paid off this associational year.
2. Wisdom and guidance for the mission board.
3. Faithfulness in service to our Lord.
4. All needs at Greenville be met.

Jimmie E. Byrd  
Treasurer

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

## **Article I—Name**

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

## **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 connection with the various Associations and Churches comprising this organization.

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

This body adopts the Treatise of Faith 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 upon the receipt of a letter and upon the payment of the representative fee of fifty (50.00) dollars, plus (10.00) dollars per member church in the district association. All ordained ministers and deacons of qualified district associations shall be entitled to membership in this body. All missionaries under the auspices of the State Mission Board shall be entitled to membership in this body upon request by the State Mission Board.

Section 3. Any local Free Will Baptist Church whose association is not a member of the State Association, may represent with (1) lay delegate and the ordained ministers and deacons of that church upon receipt of a letter and the payment of the representative fee of twenty (20.00) (amended to read twenty-five (25.00)) dollars. Each local church holding membership in a qualified district association shall be entitled to one (1) lay delegate upon receipt of a letter and upon the payment of the representative fee of twenty (20.00) (amended to read twenty-five (25.00)) dollars.

Section 4. It is understood that the Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptists and the area associations comprising its memberships 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, an 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.

(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 or 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 three (3) members with terms of up to three (3) years, with a member going off each year. The Board of Christian Education is to be composed of a member elected from each of the district associations.

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 three (3) members with terms up to three (3) years, with a member going off each year.

Section 7. The Auditing Committee is a standing committee composed of three (3) members with terms up to three (3) 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**

**—Deleted by 1981 Association—**

### **Article IX—Amendments**

The Constitution of the Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptists may be altered or amended at any yearly session of the association by two-thirds visible vote of the members present, provided that the change is recommended, in writing, to the delegates, at the yearly session and tabled until the next year.

## **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 neither 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 one hundred dollars (100.00) 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 disburse same as authorized by the Association.

- (b) The Treasurer shall be paid one hundred dollars (100.00) per year to cover his time, 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 Rallys 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 twenty-one (21) cents per mile (amended to read "the same as or not to exceed the current rate set by I.R.S.") 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 fifteen dollars (15.00) 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 sixty dollars (60.00) per issue for his labor and personal expenses in preparing the MESSENGER. (Amended to read "shall be paid one hundred (100.00) dollars per issue.")
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.