

Elder B. F. Brown, Editor
Purdy
Missouri

My Dear Friend:

Complying with your request for a statement regarding things leading unto, and the organization of, the Missouri State Meeting of Free Will Baptist, I submit the following:

During the early part of my christian life, and ministerial work, it was my pleasure to have for my spiritual advisor Rev. G. S. Latimer, now of Washington, Kansas, but at that time pastor of churches in the Northeast Missouri Yearly Meeting. At one time Rev. Latimer was clerk of The Old Missouri State Meeting. From him I learned much of the work and results accomplished under this organization. It was my privilege to attend the last session of this conference and, being a boy, I failed to give it the attention and thought I should, therefore I was handicapped some years later when I sought to bring about the organization of the present state work.

In the winter of 1905 I met Rev. F. C. Ferguson at the Schuyler County Quarterly Meeting and from him learned of the work in northwest Missouri, west central Missouri and eastern Kansas. This was during my second year in the ministry. With a desire to know more of our Missouri work I began a campaign of correspondence, but for several years was unable to gather the information desired, or the co-operation hoped for.

During the fall of 1912 I assisted Rev. W. H. McKown of Cerlow, Missouri in a revival meeting, and later he assisted me in a revival at our home church. While associated together we began to lay plans for uniting our Free Will Baptist work in Missouri. As a result of our plans, and at the close of the revival, I began corresponding with ministers and clerks of the different associations I knew of. Letters were addressed to Rev. W. H. McKown, Rev. T. C. Ferguson, Rev. J. J. Wood, Rev. R. W. Waterman, Rev. S. B. Lewis and Rev. G. S. Latimer, also Mr. Jerry Abart, clerk of Northwest Missouri Association. I also visited in person Rev. P. H. Veach, Rev. W. D. McFarland, Rev. James Sheop, Rev. C. A. Phillips, Rev. W. B. Fadely and several others in the interest of an organization. I made two trips into the Northwest Missouri Association, sit in council with the Northeast Missouri Association executive board, and visited a number of other meetings in order to determine the wishes of the people. Rev. Waterman of the LaClede Association was the only one corresponded with who failed to answer my letters, and Rev. F. C. Ferguson was the only one offering objections. But upon being elected moderator at the second session of the State Meeting at Hannan, Missouri, he put forth his best efforts for the enlargement of the work, and for several years was a tireless worker, sacrificing both time and means for advancement of the cause.

After over a year's correspondence, and traveling, we succeeded in getting the question submitted to the Northeast and Northwest Missouri Associations, The West Missouri and Eastern Kansas Association, and the St. Francois County Quarterly Meeting, resulting in a call meeting to be held with the Philadelphia church near Pattonsburg, Missouri beginning November 25, 1914.

The meeting called to meet with the Philadelphia church near Pattonsburg, Missouri on November 25, 1914 for the purpose of Organizing a state conference of Free Will Baptist assembled at 7:30 P.M. on the appointed date.

Rev. C. E. Mann, chairman of the Northeast Missouri Association, was elected to deliver the introductory sermon and address of welcome. The scripture selected was Psalms 122-1.

Thursday Morning.

A quorum not being present, praise and prayer services were conducted until eleven o'clock, at which time the gospel message was brought by Rev. C. E. Mann.

Thursday Evening 8 P.M.

A quorum being present the conference was called to order by Rev. C. E. Mann, and an object of the meeting outlined. Upon nominations Rev. W. H. McKown was elected moderator and C. E. Mann clerk. The evening was spent in discussing the feasibility of an organization. Rev. W. H. McKown was selected to bring the Gospel message Thursday night, and Rev. S. B. Lewis to bring the Gospel message Friday morning at 11 A. M.

Business was suspended until Friday evening at 2 P. M. The messages brought by Revs. McKown and Lewis were very instructive and helpful and broadened our field of information of the work accomplished by "The Old State Conference", of which both ministers had been members.

Friday Evening

The Friday evening at 2 P. M. the house was called to order by clerk. The chairman then read a lesson from Isaiah 12th chapter, after which we were led in prayer by James Hardin of The Northeast Missouri Association.

Letters from the different associations called for and read. Letters were received from The Northeast Missouri, The Northwest Missouri, The West Central Missouri and Eastern Kansas Associations and The St. Francois County Quarterly Meeting.

Motion was made and seconded that the letters be received, delegated sent, and that we proceed with the organization. Motion unanimously carried.

The Letters

To the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptist convened with the Philadelphia church near Pattersonburg, Missouri, November 25, 1914. The Central Western Missouri Association of Free Will Baptist sends greetings, praying God's blessings upon you in all your deliberations. May His presence pervade in every session of your Association in mighty power. This Association feels it has much to thank God for. His power was felt in every session of this year's meeting of our association.

This Association has a membership of 634, and church property to the value of \$9,800.00.

We send as delegates to sit with you Bros. W. H. Potts and A. W. Hartley of Wagner and Stockton churches respectfully.

The Association desires that a Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptist be organized and we hereby request that this association admitted in the body.

We earnestly pray that your coming together will be highly blessed by God, and that an Association which will greatly help to glorify His name will be the ultimate result.

October 10, 1914.

E. F. Brown, Clerk
Hannon, Missouri

To The Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptist while in session with the Philadelphia Church near Pattersonburg, Missouri, November 25-28 1914. Greetings in Jesus name: The Northeast Missouri Association of Free Will Baptist prays God's blessings upon you in all your deliberations.

This Association is in fine condition spiritually and has many things to praise God for--especially for the number of souls who have turned to Him during the past year.

Our Association voted unanimously for a state conference, and desires membership to the same.

Statistics: Number of churches, 9; Resident membership 639; non-resident membership, 160; total membership, 999; number of additions during past year, 246; number dismissed, 6; number of professions in meetings, 320; number of ministers, 11; names of delegates, Rev. J. F. Duckworth, Rev. Chas. A. Phillips, Rev. C. E. Mann, W. D. Houghton and J. M. Hardin and wife.

(Signed) C. E. Mann, Chairman of Association.

To the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptist while in session with the Philadelphia church near Pattensburg, Missouri, November 25, 1914. Our Association convened this year with the Philadelphia church and voted in favor of a state meeting, and desired membership to the same. Number of churches, 5; Number of ministers, 6; most of our churches are without pastors at present time; names of delegates, Rev. S. B. Lewis, Rev. W. H. McKoon; Deacons, William and George Jeffries.

(Signed) Jerry Ahart, clerk Northwest Missouri Association.

Farmington, Mo., Nov. 21, 1914.

The St. Francois County Quarterly Meeting of Free Will Baptist in conference assembled Nov. 6-7, 1914 unanimously voted to be represented in the Free Will Baptist Convention to be held at Pattenburg, Missouri upon Wednesday before the fifth Sunday in November, 1914.

Dear brethren in conference assembled, while we are not prepared to send delegates, we send this letter of greeting, desiring to be received as a member of The Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptist, which we learn is to be organized upon dates as above stated. We have six small church organizations, three fair church edifices, and a few true and tried Free Will Baptist.

As to a statistical report we have been unable to collect data to any certainty, but our number is not large. However our desires are large that the Dear Heavenly Father may get to himself glory out of this effort to strengthen His cause, and our beloved Zion. Our desires are also large that the remnant of Free Will Baptist may be enabled to institute a work that shall live as a monument to the blessed Gospel cause.

Dear Brethren in Christ, and in conference assembled; we submit this brief letter, simply praying that much good may be accomplished—because of this effort in behalf of the Free Will Baptist cause, and in behalf of God's cause as represented by us as Free Will Baptist, and we ask your prayers that our little quarterly meeting, which has received many a hard blow may yet live and prosper.

May we trust all to God, who will in His infinite mercy and goodness guide us all to his glory and praise.

Yours in Christ,
J. J. Wood, Co. H. Clerk

P. S. Can we be of any further service? If so let us hear from you.

Committees Appointed

Committees appointed by moderator, W. H. McKown, were as follows:

Committee on general arrangement and by-laws, Revs. F. C. Ferguson, W. H. McKown and C. E. Mann.

Committee on business, Rev. G. S. Latimer, James Hardin, and C. E. Mann.

Committee on location, sister Lou Hardin, Sister Dilley and Deacon George Jefferies.

Committee on resolution, Rev. G. S. Latimer, Deacon William Jefferies and Rev. C. E. Mann.

Pulpit Committee, William Jefferies, Robert Dilley and Sister Ahert.

Pulpit committee reported Rev. G. S. Latimer to preach Friday night, Psalms 8-4.

Committee on location reported as follows: Next session of The Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptist to be held with the First Free Will Baptist church of Hannon, Missouri in Barton County commencing on Wednesday night at 7:30 P. M. before the fifth, Sunday 1 October 1925.

Report of business committee: We recommend that a corresponding messenger be elected to meet with The Nebraska Yearly Meeting next year. Motion carried and C. E. Mann was elected.

Art. (1) The clerk, or in his absence the oldest minister present, calls the conference to order, and takes charge of the devotional services, and if requested to do so reads the constitution and by-laws.

Art. (2). Officers are elected as required by the constitution, including the executive board.

Art. (3) Corresponding messengers and visiting brethren are invited to seats as advisory members.

Art. (4) Letters from the Associations, yearly meetings and quarterly meetings are received and considered, in connection with the report of the executive board.

Art. (5) Reports of delegates, corresponding messengers to other bodies, and corresponding messengers from other organizations called for.

Art. (6) Report of committees previously appointed, and unfinished business called for and considered.

Art. (7) Business suggested by the letters, or by members of the conference considered.

Art. (8) The moderator inquires whether there is any association, yearly meeting or quarterly meeting not represented, and if not, why not. Or any association, yearly meeting or quarterly meeting needing ministerial labor, and if so how it can be best supplied. If any association, yearly meeting or quarterly meeting does not report action with reference to benevolent causes, and if not, why not.

Art. (9) When an association, yearly meeting or quarterly meeting in good standing requests a letter to join another yearly meeting a letter of recommendation is given. But is is contrary to the uses of the denomination for an association, yearly meeting or quarterly meeting to dissolve its connection with the state conference without consent of said state conference.

Art. (10) This conference is regarded as in session during the meetings of business and worship throughout the entire session, and under the direction of the moderator and the clerk should keep a record of all the meetings of business and worship.

The report was received as a whole, then taken up, article by article, and adopted, after which the committee was discharged. Motion and second that we suspend business until 2:30 P. M. carried. Prayer by Rev. G. S. Latimer.

Friday Evening 7:30 P.M.

House called to order by moderator, and scriptural lesson Rev. 22 chapter read by moderator. Prayer by sister Lou Herdin.

Minutes of previous meeting called for and read and approved. Report from committee on resolutions then called for. Report follows:

Art. 1. In view of the fact that The Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptist has closed this thier first session of The Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptist, therefore be it resolved that we on bonded knees return unto the Lord our thanks for His care and sustaining grace which He has shown unto us his children, and also for the souls brought into His vineyard during the past year.

Art. 2. Resolve that we extend unto The Dobreska Yearly Meeting our thanks for the interest they have manifested in us in sending Rev. G. S. Latimer to be with us, and to act as corresponding messenger from that body.

Art. 3. Resolve that we recommend Rev. T. C. Ferguson and wife as evangelists for the Missouri State Conference of Free Will Baptist for the ensuing year.

Art. 4. Resolve that we grant unto Bro. C. E. Mann the power to select an assistant corresponding messenger.

Art. 5. Resolve that we extend unto this people our heart felt thanks for the hospitality and interest shown unto the delegates and visiting brethren during the entire session of this association.

The resolutions were taken up in their order and adopted. Motion made and second that the clerk write a copy of article two and send to William Fuller of Elk Creek, Nebraska clerk of the Nebraska Yearly Meeting.

Upon motion and second Rev. S. B. Laws was elected assistant moderator.

Motion made and second that we suspend business to call of moderator. Motion carried.

Saturday A. M. Session

House called to order by moderator, clerk being present. After reading of scripture lesson and prayer the entire morning session was given to prayer and praise service until eleven o'clock the the Gospel message was brought by Revs. W. B. Fadely and W. H. McKern.

Saturday Evening, 7:30 P. M.

House called to order by assistant moderator, who read the first chapter of Hebrews, prayer by Rev. U. S. Latimer.

Final report of pulpit called for. Report as follows: Rev. G. S. Latimer to preach Saturday night and Sunday night. Rev. C. E. Mann, Sunday at 11 A. M. Report was received and committed discharged.

Motion made and second that we adjourn sine die. Motion carried.

Signed--C. E. Mann, clerk.