

MINUTES
of the
Eighty-First Annual Session
of the
MOUNT MORIAH
FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSN.
met with
Tabernacle Church McConnells, Ala



October 10, 11, 12, 1931.



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented By

Rev. Thurmon Murphy

PROCEEDINGS

The eighty-first annual session of the Mt. Moriah Free Will Baptist Association, met with Tabernacle Church, McConnells, Alabama, October 10, 11, 12, 1931.

The Introductory sermon was preached by Rev. J. D. Byars. Text: Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel. Mark 16-15. After which the body adjourned for refreshments for one and one-half hours.

At 2 o'clock p. m. the ministers and messengers re-assembled in the house for the transaction of business.

The house was called to order by the moderator, Rev. T. L. Walker. S. V. Powell appointed clerk, pro tem. After reading the first chapter of Joshia and prayer. The following business was transacted:

1. Letters from various churches were handed in, read and delegates listed as per roll.
2. Proceed to elect moderator and clerk, Rev. T. L. Walker elected Moderator and S. V. Powell, Clerk.
3. Call for corresponding messengers from sister association, none present. The following committees were appointed:
 1. Devotion—C. L. Adair, Bradie Montgomery, with deacons of Tabernacle Church.
 2. Document in order of business, Rev. J. D. Byars, Rev. J. E. Tilley, J. H. Harless, with the assistance of Moderator and Clerk.
 3. Sunday School—Rev. T. A. Springfield, E. L. Crofford, R. T. Green.
 4. Temperance—Rev. W. V. Pool, W. R. Curry, R. C. Montgomery.
 5. Finance—J. S. Loftis, L. C. Shirley, Sam Harless.
 6. Deceased Members—Rev. R. L. Taylor, W. L. Burkhalter, Charley Littrell.
 7. Moral Reform—Rev. W. J. Harbin, Howard Brown, T. E. Logan, T. B. Smith.
 8. Education Literature and Publication—Rev. M. Montgomery, T. A. Guin, Mrs. Grady Montgomery, Mrs. J. W. Lancaster.
 9. Resolutions and Queries—J. W. Lancaster, T. J. Lancaster, G. D. Skelton.

The Devotional Committee made a partial report as follows: Rev. J. E. Mathis preach at 9:00 a. m. Sunday;

Rev. T. L. Walker, 11:00 a. m.; Rev. J. E. Tilley, 2:30 p. m.

Moved and carried that we adjourn until 8 o'clock Monday morning.

SUNDAY SERVICE

After song service, Rev. J. E. Mathis preached at 9:00 a. m. Text: The 23rd Psalm. Rev. T. L. Walker preached at 11:00 a. m. Text: 1st Peter 4-17. Rev. J. E. Tilley preached at 2:30 p. m. Text: Revelation 16-15-21.

MONDAY MORNING

Met at 8:00 a. m. after reading 146 Psalm and prayer. The following business was transacted:

1. Roll call of churches.
2. Minutes of Saturday and Sunday read and adopted.
3. The report of various committees call for, read and adopted as follows:

DOCUMENTS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS.

We, your committee on Documents and Order of Business, beg leave to report as follows: 1st. We recommend that we proceed after the regular order of business. 2nd. That the next session of the Association be held with Phillips Chapel Church, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, beginning on Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1932. 3rd. We recommend that Rev. J. E. Tilley preach the Introductory sermon and that Rev. W. V. Pool be his alternate. 4. We recommend that the clerk superintend the printing of the minutes, and that he be paid \$15.00 for his service. 5. We recommend that the next session of the Union Meeting be held with Sulphur Springs Church, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, beginning on Saturday before fourth Sunday in July, 1932. 6th. We recommend that Rev. T. A. Springfield preach the Introductory Sermon and Rev. J. M. Spencer be his alternate. Report adopted, committee discharged.

REV. J. D. BYARS, Chairman.

TEMPERANCE.

We, your committee on Temperance, submit the following report: We recommend that our people abstain from all intoxicating liquors, and that we obey the teach-

ings of His word in regards to this great subject, for in failing to obey His teaching on this subject, we bring upon ourselves condemnation. Report adopted, committee discharged.

REV. W. V. POOL, Chairman.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We, the committee on Sunday School, report as follows: We find but few churches report Sunday School and we are made to believe that preachers and deacons are not advocating the Sunday School cause as they should and we recommend that all of our preachers and deacons advocate the Sunday School cause and organize Sunday Schools in every church in our association, as near as possible, for we believe that all children as well as all church members, should be in the study of God's word. Report adopted. committee discharged.

REV. T. A. SPRINGFIELD, Chairman.

DECEASED MEMBERS.

We, your committee on deceased members, report as follows: Mt. Moriah, Bro. H. A. McShan and Sister Ollie Hughes. Macedonia, Sister Lucindia Fields, Daucie McAdams; Shiloh, Bro. Canis Montgomery; Tabernacle, Bro. J. R. Logan, Sister Sarah Jane Logan; Antioch, Sister Hassie Johnson; Phillips Chapel, Sister Sissy Montgomery, Bro. Nelse Keith; Union Hill, Sister Fannie Perigin; Sulphur Springs, Sister Mandy Collins.

Grieve not for those who are gone, but strive to meet them in the Sweet Bye and Bye. Report adopted. Committee discharged.

REV. R. L. TAYLOR, Chairman

Song and prayer in memory of the deceased. Prayer by Rev. J. W. Harbin.

MORAL REFORM

We, the committee on Moral Reform, with sad hearts we make this report, that our churches of today are greatly in need of much reform. We know there are church members who are indulging in worldly things, how can we expect our children and those that do not know God to be moral when we father and mothers are not moral. Morality will not save us but we can not be Christians without Morality. We beg our Church members to cleave to the divine teaching or instructions which

are found in the Bible. To do this, we must leave off every immoral act, and by doing this means much to our Christian life influence here in this world. Report adopted. Committee discharged.

REV. W. J. HARBIN, Chairman.

DEVOTION

We, your committee on Devotion, beg leave to report as follows: That Rev. W. J. Harbin preach Valedictory Sermon and Rev. M. Montgomery be his alternate. Report received, Committee discharged.

C. L. ADAIR, Chairman.

EDUCATION, LITERATURE AND PUBLICATION.

We recommend the following report: Seeing that we are in a progressive age, we recommend that our people take great interest in the education and training of their children as the moral training of the mind has a great tending to cause the mind to think and the heart to feel the necessity of higher attainments, and we especially urge our people to read and study the Bible as all the Revelations come from God through the Bible. The demand for education was never greater than now. Young men entering the ministry should be encouraged to strive for a more thorough education. We recommend that we be very careful in selecting for our home reading, more especially for our children believing that the reading of novels and the histories on the lives of bad characters have a tendency to lead our young men astray. We recommend that we use the Sunday School literature published by our own denomination. Report adopted. Committee discharged.

REV. M. MONTGOMERY, Chairman.

FINANCE.

We, your committee on finance, have collected at this session \$44.90, collected last session \$48.50; paid clerk \$15.00; paid for minutes last session \$32.50; postage \$1.21. Report adopted and committee discharged.

J. S. LOFTIS, Chairman.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

We have nothing to report against any of our preachers. Report on evangelistic Funds as follows:

In treasury	\$28.56
Evangelistic Fund	41.55
Interest	2.84

Total \$72.95

Report received, committee retained.

J. A. HICKMAN, Chairman.

RESOLUTIONS AND QUERIES

We, your committee on resolutions and queries, report as follows: We tender our sincere thanks to the good people of Tabernacle Church and community for the able manner in which they have shown us during our stay with them and pray God's richest blessings on them. Report adopted and committee discharged.

T. J. LANCASTER, Chairman.

Proceedings of the Union Meeting read and adopted. After discussing the Evangelistic work it was moved and adopted that we pay Rev. J. M. Spencer for his service rendered.

LIST OF DELEGATES ATTENDING ASSOCIATION

Mt. Moriah—J. W. Lancaster, T. B. Smith, Sister Bessie Lancaster.

Macedonia—Lando McAdams, George Ruffin.

Tabernacle—R. C. Montgomery, Vela Frazier, J. S. Loftis.

Shiloh—W. L. Burkhalter, Ward Burkhalter, Alvin Miller.

Antioch—J. G. Taylor, Albert Wallace.

Union—W. R. Curry, T. J. Lancaster, Sam Hill Lindsey.

Phillips Chapel—M. J. Sanford, J. C. Oswalt, W. T. Montgomery.

Union Hill—Charley Littrell.

Mt. Zion—S. E. Harless, J. H. Brown, T. E. Logan.

Hattis Chapel—

Pleasant Hill—J. G. Person, J. H. Harless, R. T. Green.

Unity Grove—E. L. Stapp, C. L. Adair, T. A. Guin.

Sulphur Springs—P. H. Keller.

Espy Springs—Brady Montgomery, L. C. Shirley, Sister Addie Montgomery.

Sardis—Frank Sullivan, G. D. Skelton, Audie Driver.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Rev. J. E. Mathis, Millport, Alabama, Route 3.

Rev. J. D. Byars, Millport, Alabama.

Rev. W. R. Robinson, Reform, Alabama, Route 2.

Rev. J. M. Spencer Northport, Alabama.

Rev. J. E. Tilley, Ethelville, Alabama.

Rev. L. A. Williamson, Louisville, Miss., Route 8.

Rev. M. Montgomery, McConnells, Alabama, Route 1.

Rev. T. V. Wheat, Coker, Alabama, Route 1.

Rev. T. L. Walker, Gordo, Alabama, Route 1.

Rev. W. J. Harbin, Berry, Alabama.

Rev. T. A. Springfield, Gordo, Alabama, Route 1.

Rev. J. F. Carmack, Covin, Alabama.

Rev. W. V. Pool, Gordo, Alabama, Route 2.

Rev. E. F. Pool, Gordo, Alabama, Route 1.

Rev. R. L. Taylor, McConnells, Alabama.

LICENTIATES.

Rev. N. M. Sanford, McConnells, Alabama.

Rev. H. E. Cobb, Millport, Alabama.

DECEASED MINISTERS

Rev. W. B. Montgomery, Rev. Woods Springfield, Rev. W. E. Harbin, Rev. I. T. Nabors, Rev. E. Gore, Rev. T. Maloy, Rev. W. R. Latham, Rev. W. J. Cowart, Rev. J. S. Hinton, Rev. J. R. Robertson, Rev. O. M. Archey.

OFFICERS OF ASSOCIATION

Rev. T. L. Walker, Moderator, Gordo, Alabama, Rt. 1.
S. V. Powell, Clerk, Gordo, Alabama.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

J. A. Hickman, Gordo, Alabama, Route 1.

E. Z. Mayfield, Gordo, Alabama.

J. T. Johnson, Millport, Alabama.

J. S. Loftis, McConnells, Alabama.

H. B. Logan, Samantha, Alabama, Route 2.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE UNION MEETING

The fortieth annual session of the Union meeting of the Mt. Moriah F. W. B. Association held with Mt. Zion Church, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, July 25, 26, and 27, 1931.

On Saturday at 11 o'clock, Rev. T. L. Walker preached the introductory sermon. Text: "I can do all things through Christ which strengthen me." After which the body adjourned for refreshments to meet again at 1:30 p. m.

At one-thirty p. m. the ministers and messengers re-assembled in the house for the transaction of business. Moderator being absent, Rev. M. Montgomery was appointed Moderator pro tem and after reading the 15th Psalm and prayer the house was called to order by Moderator. The following business was transacted.

1st. Letters from various churches were handed in and read. Delegates listed as per roll.

2nd. Proceed to elect moderator and clerk. Rev. J. E. Tilley, Moderator and S. V. Powell re-elected, clerk.

3rd. Extend an invitation for visiting brethren from other associations. None present. The following committees were appointed:

First: On Documents and Order of Business, J. M. Stokes, Brady Montgomery, Taylor Montgomery with Moderator and Clerk.

2nd. Evangelism. Rev. M. Montgomery, Early Dean, R. D. Belk.

3rd. Sunday school, T. B. Weaver, Rev. H. E. Cobb, J. H. Brown and Rev. E. F. Pool.

4th, Resolutions and Queries. Rev. T. L. Walker, J. S. Steward and L. C. Shirley.

5th. Devotion. I. B. Driver, P. J. Frazer, J. T. Watson, J. C. Oswalt, J. H. Galloway with Deacons of Mt. Zion Church.

A partial report of the devotional committee. Rev. R. L. Taylor preached at 9:30 a. m. Sunday. Moved and carried that we adjourn until 8 o'clock Monday morning.

SUNDAY MORNING

Song service before preaching. Rev. R. L. Taylor preached at 9:30 a. m. Text: Rom. 8:6. At this time Rev. M. Montgomery made a very interesting talk and asked

that all pray in behalf of Rev. Taylor. Rev. J. E. Tilley preached at 11 a. m. Text: St. John 21-13. The devotional committee made their final report. Rev. E. F. Pool preached at 3 p. m. Sunday. Text: St. John 15:1-7. Rev. W. J. Harbin preached valedictory sermon. Text. John 14-36 and Heb. 13:13-14.

MONDAY MORNING

Monday morning at 8:30 a. m. after reading 19th Psalm and prayer by Rev. J. M. Spencer the following business was transacted:

1st. Roll call of delegates.

2nd. Minutes of Saturday and Sunday read and adopted. Reports of various committees called for, read and adopted. Document and order of business. We, your committee on Documents and Order of Business, recommended the subject of the Union Meeting be carried to the Association for final decision. J. M. STOKES, Chairman

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EVANGELISM

We, the committee on evangelism, make the following report: That we recommend and proceed to elect an evangelist to work in the interest of churches that have no pastors until the association. We also recommend that the Association take up this question and continue same if they see fit. We recommend that each pastor take up this question with his churches and collect funds for the support of the evangelistic work. We also recommend that all funds collected for evangelistic work be sent to the Chairman of the executive committee and that he pay out to evangelists for services rendered.

REV. M. MONTGOMERY, Chairman.

Report was adopted and Rev. J. M. Spencer was elected evangelist.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We, your committee on Sunday School report as follows: We find there is less interest in Sunday school than there should be. We feel Sunday school is one of the learning religious services. Statistics show that 87 per cent of converts come from Sunday School. So we, therefore, urge every pastor to insist that his church have Sunday School for the sake of our young people on whom

depends the future of our country. We ask that all Christians pray especially for our Sunday School.

BELTON WEAVER, Chairman.

RESOLUTIONS AND QUERIES

We, your committee on resolution and queries report as follows: We tender our sincere thanks to the good people of Mt. Zion Church and community for the able manner in which they have shown us during our stay with them, and pray God's riches blessings on them.

J. S. STEWARD, Chairman.

LIST OF MINISTERS ATTENDANCE

Rev. J. E. Tilley, Rev. M. Montgomery, Rev. T. L. Walker, Rev. W. J. Harbin, Rev. R. L. Taylor, Rev. E. F. Pool, Rev. J. M. Spencer, Rev. T. V. Wheat and Rev. H. E. Cobb

LIST OF DELEGATES ATTENDING

Mt Moriah—
Macedonia—W. E. Dean, J. M. Stokes.
Shiloh.
Tabernacle—J. J. Frazer, J. S. Loftis, M. T. Montgomery.
Antioch—J. L. Shepherd, R. D. Belk, Delbert Belk.
Union—W. H. Whatley, J. T. Lindsey.
Phillips Chapel—J. T. Watson, J. H. Galloway, J. C. Oswalt.
Union Hill—J. S. Stewart, W. D. Perrigin.
Mt. Zion—T. J. Shipp, J. H. Brown, T. E. Logan.
Hattis Chapel—
Pleasant Hill—
Unity Grove.
Sulphur Springs—
Epsey Springs—J. B. Weaver, L. C. Shirley, Brady Montgomery.
Sardis—G. D. Skelton, I. D. Driver, W. W. Driver.
Aniotch not represented Monday.

REV. J. E. TILLEY, Moderator.
S. V. POWELL, Clerk.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

ARTICLE 1. We believe that there is only one true and living God, who is the Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth, self-existent Creator of all things, and revealed under the personal distinctions of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and existing in distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

Art. 2. We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author. Salvation for its end, and Truth for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of this world, the center of Christian union, the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions will be tried.

Art. 3. We believe that man was created holy, under the law of his Maker, but from voluntary transgression fell from that happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now depraved, and wholly unable of their own free will and ability to recover themselves from the fallen state in which they are by nature.

Art. 4. We believe that God has not fixed the future state of mankind by an absolute and unconditional decree, but salvation is offered in the Gospel free to all, and if sinners are lost forever, it will be their own fault.

Art. 5. We believe that Christ by His death and sufferings, made an atonement for the sins of all mankind in general, and every individual in particular; however, that none but those who believe in Him can be partakers of the divine benefits.

Art. 6. We believe that true faith cannot proceed from the exercise of our natural faculties and powers, or from the force and operation of free will, since man in consequence of his natural corruption, is incapable either of thinking or doing anything spiritually good.

Art. 7. We believe in a general application of the grace of God to fallen man, sufficiently to enable him morally and actually to obey the requirements of the law of liberty, Ja. 1 ch., 25v.; this is, to act saving faith, John 1c. 9v.; however, none but those who believe or acquiesce in Christ will be saved thereby—Acts 17:31; Rom. 2:19; John 3:19.

Art. 8. We believe in the free moral agency of man, by the grace of God, before and after conversion, and that he is laid under no invincible necessity, by his Creator, to act in any given way; that if he lives after the flesh, he shall die, but if he, through the spirit to mortify the deeds of the body, he shall live, and therefore man is always a proper subject of admonition and exhortation. Heb. 3:11, 12, 13; Rom. 13:14; Mark 13:13; Eze. 18:24; Rev. 2 and 3ch.; Eze. 33:13 and 18; 1 Tim. 4:1; Heb. 3:5; 1 Cor. 10:12 and 22v.; 1 Peter 1:10.

Art. 9. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by his laws, and exercise the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by his word; that its only proper officers are bishops or pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

Art. 10. We believe that Christian baptism is immersion in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and that believers are the proper subjects.

Art. 11. We believe that the Lord's Supper is of perpetual obligation, by which the members of the church in the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

Art. 12. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and the general judgment; that the joys of the righteous, and punishment of the wicked, will be eternal, upon principles of grace and justice.

Art. 13. We believe in open or mixed communion, and the churches of our body are authorized, through their pastors, to invite Christians of all orthodox churches, who are in good standing, in their respective churches, to, commune with us at the Lord's table.

RULES OF DECORUM

Article 1. This Association shall be called to order by the Moderator who presided at last session, the former Clerk also officiating until the body is fully organized.

Art. 2. The Association shall be opened and closed by singing and prayer.

Art. 3. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by ballot at each session of the Association. A majority of votes by delegates present elects.

Art. 4. The names of the delegates from the different churches shall be enrolled and called for as often as necessary during the session.

Art. 5. A majority of delegates shall rule in all cases except in the reception of churches, then it shall be unanimous.

Art. 6. The Moderator shall not be entitled to vote except in cases of a tie, and then he shall give the deciding vote. He shall be entitled to speak on all questions after others have spoken, providing he appoints some one to the chair while he is speaking.

Art. 7. Only one person shall speak at a time and he shall rise and address the Moderator, and after recognition by the Moderator he shall proceed.

Art. 8. No brother shall be interrupted while speaking unless he departs from the subject under discussion or uses words of personal reflection.

Art. 9. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the Association, nor more than 15 minutes at a time.

Art. 10. No members shall laugh or talk while debates are going on.

Art. 11. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the Moderator.

Art. 12. The Moderator shall have power to call the Association together at any time upon a petition of two-thirds of the churches composing the Association over which he presides.

Art. 13. That the appointment of all committees by the Moderator be confined to ministers and delegates composing the Association.

CONSTITUTION

Art. 1. This Association shall be known as the Mt. Moriah Free Will Baptist Association of Alabama, being composed of delegates from the different churches forming the same, each church being entitled to three delegates.

Art. 2. This body shall be considered an Advisory Council, but having no authority over the affairs of other churches, unless they depart from the articles of faith of this Association. In case any church departs from the articles of faith and supports doctrines of heresy, or allows any minister of her body to teach doctrines not in keeping with our articles of faith, the same shall be dealt with by this Association as it may deem proper and right, according to the teachings of the Bible.

Art. 3. Each church in this Association shall be considered an advisory body, and shall control its own internal affairs in matters of discipline, etc. It may, however, in extreme cases, call aid from sister churches, but the Association shall rule in all matters of doctrine and general interest.

Art. 4. All questions of doctrine and matters of general interest shall be settled by a two-thirds vote of the Association and the decision be final.

Art. 5. The officers of the Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer who shall be chosen at each session by a majority of votes.

Art. 6. This Association shall meet annually, at such time and place as may be agreed at a previous annual session, and shall not adjourn finally until all business is transacted.

Art. 7. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt its Articles of Faith and conform to its usage.

Art. 8. We agree as churches of this Association to use our best influence to promote the interest of all moral and benevolent institutions, such as the temperance cause, Sabbath Schools, Missionary work, etc.

STATISTICAL TABLE

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