

MINUTES
of the
24TH ANNUAL SESSION
of the
**Morning Star Free Will Baptist
Association**
(Held with
GUM SPRINGS CHURCH
Tuscaloosa County, Sept., 20-22,
1930

Officers:

REV. T. M. MULLINAX, Moderator
H. P. PIKE, Clerk

The Next Session of this Association will convene with New Shady Grove, 10 miles South of Oakman, Ala., on Saturday, before the 3rd Sunday in September,

1931



FREE WILL BAPTIST
BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented By

Rev. Thurmon Murphy

PROCEEDINGS:

The Twenty Fourth Annual Session of the Morning Star Freewill Baptist Association was held with Gum Springs Church, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, September 20-22, 1930

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. J. J. Gurganus Text: 2nd chapter of Matthew, 21st verse, followed by Bro. J. W. Murray,

Evening Session

At 2:30 o'clock the Ministers and Delegates assembled in the house for business, Prayer by Bro. J. J. Murray.

1. Sisters Unice and Ella Earnest were appointed Reading Clerks.

2. Roll of Churches was called and letters handed in, read and Delegates seated and contents noted.

Roll of Churches and Delegates

Pleasant Ridge—Bros. Sam Roberts, H. D. Bates, Emmet Patton.

Antioch—Sisters L. C. Honeycutt, Martha Fulton.

New Shady Grove—Bros. Mack Wade, Oliver Dawkins.

Davis' Chappel—Bro. Babe Moore, Sister Minnie Moore.

Gum Springs—Conner Davis, Bro. Hargrove Earnest, Sister Ella Earnest.

Sulphur Springs—Bros. J. E. Dorrough, W. C. Williams, Sister Georgia Dorrough.

2. Called for Petitionary Letters and the petition of New Shady Grove was handed in, read and added to the roll by unanimous vote.

3. Called for Correspondence from Sister Associations, none present.

4. Motion was offered to permanently organize whereupon Rev. T. M. Mullinax was elected Moderator and H. P. Pike, Clerk.

5. The following committees were appointed:

1. On Preaching, Bros. Mack Waid, W. E. Dorrough, J. D. Earnest.

2. Documents and Order of Business, J. E. Dorrough, W. C. Williams, Babe Moore.

3. On Literature, Sister Martha Fulton, Bro. Alvie Dawkins, Harris Bates.

4. On Sabbath Schools, Sister L. C. Honeycutt, Bro. W. H. Brigman' Ella Earnest.

5. On Temperence, Bro. W. E. Patton, Sister Georgie Dorrough, Bro. Carl Hallman.

6. Deceasdd Members, Bro. Sam Roberts, Rev. J. J. Pinkleton, Bro. J. D. Earnest.

7. On Finance, J. W. Murray, J. J. Gurganus, Mack Waid

8 Preaching Committee reports Bro. J. W. Murray preach at 11 o'clock Sunday, T. M. Mullinax Communion service. Bro. Babe Moore Sunday evening, Rev. N. Wright, Alternate.

MACK WAID, Chairman.

After which the Association adjourned to meet Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

Sunday Service

Sunday morning brought us back to the house of the Lord. After several songs, prayer by Bro. H. P. Pike, Rev. J. W. Murray brought the Mes-age—Scriptural lesson, 1st Chapter Psalms: Text 6 chapter, 7th verse. Rev. T. M. Mullinax followed taking the Sacriment and Washing Feet, after which we adjourned for about one hour for refreshments

We reassembled in the house and was entertained by the Gum Springs singing class. At 3 o'clock Rev. Babe Moore brought the Message Scripture Lesson, 2nd Peter, 2nd chapter, 4th verse.

Monday Morning Session

At 9 o'clock Monday morning, Sept., 22nd, the Association met persuant to adjournment. song and prayer by C. S. Wilcut.

1. Roll was called and a quorum was declared present. The Moderator declared the body ready for business and the following was transacted. Saturday's work was read and approved.

2, Call for report of committees which was handed in, read and adopted and committees discharged as follows:

Report of Committees

1. Committee on Documents.

We, your Committee on Documents and Order of Business submit the following; We recommend that New Shady Grove church have the next session of this Association, and

that Rev. J. W. Murray preach the introductory sermon, Rev. T. M. Mullinax Alternate, We further recommend that the Clerk superintend the printing of the Minutes and distribute them to the various churches according to their contribution, and that he shall have five [\$5.00] dollars for his services. We recommend that churches be more liberal with their contributions to the Minute fund. We also recommend that Rev. J. W. Murray Evangelize the Association.

J. E. Dorrough, Chairman.

2. Committee on Literature.

We, your committee on Literature report as follows: We recommend the prayerful study of the Bible, for it is the book of all books and its careful study will enable us to live a righteous life and help us to teach sinners the way and that we support education in every way that is right that we supply our children with Christian Literature to study in connection with the Bible.

Conner Davis, Chairman.

3. Sabbath School Committee

We your Committee on Sabbath Schools beg to report that we have lively Sabbath Schools at the following churches; Pleasant Ridge, Antioch, Sulphur Springs, New Shady Grove, Gum Springs. Gum Springs has an average of 30. We wish for much better attendance in the future.

Ella Earnest, Chairman.

4. Temperance Committee.

We recommend that all our members be temperate in all things, also our preachers should live a consecrated life, thereby setting a pattern for their flock to follow and totally abstain from all intoxicants and to be careful how we use the unruly member, the tongue, especially against the house of faith.

Earl Hallman, Chairman.

5. Deceased Members.

Since our last Association, we find that the great reaper has thrust his sickle and reaped the following members from Pleasant Ridge, Sister Nora Brown, age 63, from Antioch, Bro. J. A. Burket age 80, from Davis' Chapel Sister Margaret Duncan, Bro. J. T. Harkie, Sister Lizzie Swinnie. We pray God's blessings on the bereaved.

J. D. Earnest, Chairman.

6. Finance Committee.

We find that we have \$16.00 on hand paid in by the various churches and we have collected \$1.96 from New Shady Grove, making a total of \$17.96.

Mack Wade, Chairman.

Resolutions.

1st. That we believe in every effort for the spread of the gospel in our churches. Resolved,

2nd that when Ministers of other Orthodox Churches become members of our body, accept their ordination as we do their baptism. Examine them on the Articles of Faith and give them credentials and let them go.

3rd. That, we urge our churches to help support our Evangelists, and that we help our pastors to do all the evangelistic work possible.

4th. That we offer Gum Springs church, and community, our thanks for the manner in which they have cared for us during our stay with them.

Rev. N. Wright, Chairman.

This closing our labor, a hymn was sang and the parting hand was taken with love and union. Closed with prayer by H. P. Pike. The good ladies then spread a fine dinner and everybody feasted, after which Ministers and Delegates departed to meet with Shady Grove Church, Saturday, before the Third Sunday in September, 1931.

REV. T. M. MULLINAX, Moderator.

H. P. PIKE, Clerk.

List of Ordained Ministers and Their Postoffices.

- Rev. J. J. Gurganus, Cordova, Ala.
- " J. W. Murray, Nauvoo, Ala.
- " N. Wright, Rt 1, Berry, Ala
- " T. M. Mullinax, Rt 2, Corona, Ala.
- " Robert Moncreath, Empire, Ala.
- " John Buzby, Spartenburg Ill,
- " H C. Moore, Berry, Ala.
- " S. M. Hasmer, Rt 1, Fayette, Ala.
- " T. J. Adair, Cordova, Ala.
- " --- Miller, Corona, Ala.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been brought as we humbly trust by divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and having obtained justification by faith in His name we, as members of the Free Will Baptist Church at-----

-----, agree;

1st. To watch over each other in love, to pray for each other as members of a common faith ever striving to keep the unity of the spirit in bonds of peace.

2nd. We will not speak evil, one of another, nor will we prosecute or expose the faults of the weak members of our church, but we will endeavor to be governed by Paul's instruction to Timothy, that we will reprove, rebuke and exhort each other as members of a common brotherhood.

3rd. We are commanded to do good unto all men, especially to those who are of the household of faith, but we should remember that our relations to each other are closer and the obligations more binding than that of a common bond of Christian charity. In adopting this covenant we become as a family, and assume in Christian sense the care and responsibility that the members of a family should feel for each other.

4th. We will attend the stated meetings of our church unless we are providentially hindered or uncontrollable circumstances prevent us. And we will contribute of our means as the Lord has prospered us for the support of our pastor and other necessary expenses of our church, and we will prefer the service of our own church to that of any other, and will pray for our pastor while he is preaching the Word to us.

5th. We will not injure our influence in the house of the Lord by occupying seats among the ungodly and sinners, but will occupy seats near the pulpit and use the natural power which the Lord has given us to praise His Holy Name. We will sing with those who sing, and pray with those who pray.

6th. We will not be guilty of the sin of Sabbath breaking by making Sunday visits to our neighbors, which is a double sin against the law of God, for in so doing we fail to attend the house of the Lord and hinder others who might wish to do so. Let us remember the law of Moses which condemns Sabbath breaking and the word of the inspired

Apostle which says, "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is."

7th. We will not neglect the secret and public prayers and those of us who are heads of families will strive to dedicate our household to the service of God by teaching our children the great necessity of the Christian religion as the only hope of happiness after death. We will adopt the covenant of Joshua, the servant of the Lord, and say, "But as for me and my house we will serve the Lord."

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This Association shall be known as the Morning Star 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 the churches.

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.

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 shall 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 Article of Faith and conform to its usages.

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

Art. 9. No member of this Association shall be eligible to the office of Moderator more than two successive sessions

unless no other member be competent to act in that capacity.

Art. 10. Any church failing to send representatives for two years in succession, its name shall be dropped from our minutes.

RULES OF DECORUM

Art. 1. This Association shall be called to order by the Moderator who presided at the 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 depart from the subject under discussion or use 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, not more than 15 minutes at a time.

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

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

ARTICLES OF FAITH

Article 1. We believe there is one and but one living true God, who is in personality the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, equal and harmonious in every divine perfection. "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.—I Tim. 2:5.

Art. 2. We believe that God is the author of the Holy Bible, and that its teachings constitute the only infalible doctrine for the government of His church. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.--II Tim. 3:16.

Art. 3. We believe that Adam was created holy but by voluntary transgression fell into depravity, and consequently involved his posterity in sin. "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasant to the eye, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took the fruit thereof and did eat and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat."—Gen. 3:6.

Art. 4. we believe that the grace of God comprehended all spiritual blessings, that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation, that the Holy Spirit not only reproves the world of sin, but is the means whereby sinners are converted and made wise unto salvation. 'For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him,'—Romans 10:12.

Art. 5. We believe that Christian faith is belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Redeemer of the world, and in the divinity of the holy scriptures that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life, and he that believeth not on the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him."—John 6:36

Art. 6. We believe that repentance is sorrow for sin, and the kind of sorrow which constitutes godly repentance must be preceeded by effectual conviction for sin. "For Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of, but the sorrow of the world worketh death."—II Cor. 7:81;10.

Art. 7. We believe that the human will is free, and that it has ability to accept or reject the conditions of salvation as they are revealed in the holy scriptures. "He hath shown thee, oh man, what is good, and what doth the Lord require

of thee but to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God.”—Michael 6:8.

Art. 8. We do not believe under the gospel dispensation that any soul is elected to eternal life unconditionally, but that those who by faith persevere to the end will be saved; that is possible for men who have been converted to make shipwrecks of their faith, turn again to sin, and be finally lost. “And Jesus said unto him no man having put his hand to the plow looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”—Luke 9:62.

Art. 9. We believe that good works is the result of faith and that those who have faith will do works of righteousness, while those who have no faith cannot do anything pleasing or acceptable to God. “Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire.”—Matthew 7:16.

Art. 10. We believe that Christian baptism is the emersion in water of a believer in the names of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost; that baptism cannot be scripturally administered without faith in the subject who receives it. “Therefore, we are buried with Him in baptism into death that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in the newness of life,”—Roman 6:4.

Art. 11. We believe the Lord’s Supper was instituted by our Savior as a commemorative ordinance, that the bread and wine represent His body and blood; that it was instituted for Christmas, and that all Christians should unite in observing the sacred service, regardless of the names or denominational distinction. “But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthy, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.”—I Cor. 11:28-29.

We believe it is the duty of the disciples of Jesus Christ to wash each other’s feet. “If I then your Lord and Master have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another’s feet.”—John 13:14.

Art. 12. We believe that man is a living soul; that the body will die, but the soul is immortal; that death is the separation or the mortal or immortal parts of human beings. “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.”—Gen. 2:7.

Art. 13. We believe in the resurrection of the dead. When the resurrection shall take place the soul and body will reunite and form an immortal being; that the righteous will be received into a state of everlasting happiness to reign with God forever and ever, but the wicked will be bound hand and foot and cast into outer darkness. The wicked are driven away in their wickedness, but the righteous have hope in their death. 'Marvel not at this for the hour is coming in which all that are in the grave shall hear His voice, and shall come forth, they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation.'—John 5:23-29.



