

MINUTES
Of the
FIRST SESSION
OF THE
North East Mississippi Association
OF THE
Free Will Baptist

Convened with
NEW MACEDONIA CHURCH
THREE MILES NORTHEAST OF TUPELO, MISS.
FRIDAY, NOV. 22, 1935.

NEXT SESSION:
Will convene with **NEW LIFE CHURCH** at Wallfield,
Miss., on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in September,
continuing through Monday

Rev. J. M. Haas will preach the Introductory Sermon.

Water Valley Free Will Baptist Association 1900
by chs. from the old Tupelo area
and it was of principal importance
organizing

MINUTES

The Water Valley Free Will Baptist Association of Mississippi met in call session with Bethlehem Church, 7 miles northwest of Pontotoc, Mississippi on Friday, October 25, 1935 at 9 o'clock pursuant to adjournment of regular session at Springdale Church on Saturday, September 7, 1935 with the understanding when adjourned to meet in call session for the purpose of effecting a union with several churches in Lee County and adjoining Counties of same faith and order if we and the several churches mentioned could come to an agreement. After conferring with these churches by delegates and corresponding messengers, duly appointed at the 1935 regular session of the Water Valley Free Will Baptist Association, we met in this, the call session of the said Water Valley Association. After the moderator, Rev. George Lee, called the body to order by reading a chapter from the Bible and prayer by Rev. M. L. Hollis, the clerk W. F. Bevil took his chair and listed the following churches with delegates: New Life—Jim Corder, Bill Corder, and E. V. Flanagan; Antioch—J. T. McGregory, J. R. Davis, P. P. Sledge, W. F. Bevil, Rev. J. H. Norwood, Rev. D. M. Smitherman, and Rev. W. H. Fonder; Stetson Chapel—W. H. Ferguson; Springdale—G. L. Dulin, Homer F. Bevil, T. F. McCord, and E. M. Lewis; Gauley—W. A. Calder, Mrs. Minnie Calder, Estelle Lee, and Rev. George Lee; Bethlehem—C. J. Ard, Effie May, and Mrs. Roy May; Pleasant Grove—J. V. Bennett and Jim Thomas. There was a move made and properly sustained by a second that the Water Valley Free Will Baptist Association of Mississippi be dissolved and it was carried.

OBITUARY

The death angel visited the home of Bro. Washie Hamilton, of Randolph, last Tuesday, April 16, at 3:30 p. m., and called his father, Bro. John P. Hamilton to go with him to a better country, and Bro. Hamilton yielded up his mortal body in death and departed this life for the spiritual world, (Paradise) the home of the spiritual man until the resurrection.

His body was laid to rest in the Antioch cemetery the following day at 2:30 p. m. funeral services conducted by Rev. J. M. Haas, Tupelo, and Rev. J. H. Norwood.

Bro. Hamilton leaves to mourn his going a true and faithful companion, and three faithful sons, Washie and Dwight Hamilton, Randolph, and Zan. Hamilton, of Toccopola, and one daughter, Mrs. Idell Ownsby, of Springville community, and several grandchildren. His friends were unnumbered.

Bro. Hamilton professed faith in Christ when a young man and united with the Free Will Baptist Church at Antioch, and lived a consecrated Christian life until death. Some years after he united with the Church and he always made the blessed Lord's work and the interest of his Church first above all. He always had everything in readiness at each service, and he was never lacking when it came to his Christian duty, and he always tried to make everybody feel welcome at his Church (Antioch) at all times, and he was a man that wanted his neighbors and friends to feel welcome at his home, and would do everything he could to have them to enjoy themselves.

In Bro. Hamilton's death his companion has lost a faithful husband, his children a loving father, and his Church a true friend. Will say to his loved ones: Look away from the weak things of earth and look to our Great Heavenly Father, who is able to turn our mourning grief and sorrows to rejoicing.

The great congregation at his burial and the flowers that covered his grave expressed the confidence and influence he had in this community where he was born and raised and spent all of his life.

May the good Lord bless all of his relatives and loved ones, is our prayer.

Written by a true Brother and one who loved him.
"Gone, but not forgotten."

Eld. J. H. Norwood.

X The Water Valley Free Will Baptist Association being dissolved and we, a band of churches here without an organization under which to function or do business. There were three other churches represented in this gathering who were not members of an Association but held letters from other Associations. Therefore, we, the seven churches listed as the annulled Water Valley Free Will Baptist Association, namely: Gauley, New Life, Bethlehem, Stetson Chapel, Antioch, Springdale and Pleasant Grove, together with the following Churches and their delegates, to-wit: Beech Springs with W. J. Hill, M. C. Stimbridge, C. E. Langston and L. B. Hill; East Tupelo with W. G. Prude, B. H. Bailey, Mrs. Fay Bailey, Mrs. Roy Post, R. M. Nichols and Rev. M. L. Hollis; New Macedonia with Rev. J. M. Haas and G. M. Shilrey.

X By a move and second, Rev. George Lee acted as moderator protem and W. F. Bevil clerk protem until a permanent organization could be perfected. There was a move properly sustained by a second that we go into the organization of the North East Mississippi Association of Free Will Baptist. The body went into the election of permanent officers for the year. The results were as follows: Rev. M. L. Hollis, moderator and Rev. George Lee, clerk; and W. G. Prude, treasurer. After the election of officers the ten churches with their delegations met in the altar and had a hand shaking of fellowship. The Association being organized for business, adjourned until 1:00 o'clock and Rev. M. L. Hollis by unanimous sanction filled the stand and preached a wonderful sermon. The East Tupelo quartet gave two appropriate renditions of songs.

X The Moderator by vote of the Association was given power to appoint all the necessary committees toward the perfection of this Association. A committee to arrange or formulate constitution, rules of decorum, and Articles of Faith for this Association and the following members were appointed: Rev. J. H. Norwood, Rev. J. M. Haas, and Mrs. Roy Post together with the Moderator and Clerk to have prepared and present for adoption or rejection by this Association when convened with New Macedonia church, three miles northeast of Tupelo, Miss., on Friday, November 22, 1935. The Moderator appointed a committee on Home Mission as follows: W. F. Bevil of Toccopola, Rastus Bailey of East Tupelo, C. E. Langston of Saltillo, W. A. Calder of Calhoun City, and Charlie Ard of Springville, Mississippi. Corresponding delegates were appointed to the Alabama State Conference of Free Will Baptist which convened at Belk, Alabama October 28, 29, 30, 1935, as follows: Billy Hill, W. G. Prude, and Jim Corder. State Conference fee of \$5.00 was collected and turned over to the treasurer, W. G. Prude. There were also funds to the amount of \$1.75 collected and turned into the treasury of the Association as Associational Funds and each church was asked to send funds to Association to be used as

Mission Funds. No further business to be attended to until this organization is completed. By unanimous vote of this body we extend to Bethlehem Church and community a heart felt thanks for the kindness and hospitality shown us while in this session of our Association and pray the Lord bless this Church and community. This session is adjourned to meet with New Macedonia, Nov. 22, 1935.

G. C. Lee, Clerk.

M. L. Hollis, Moderator.

We, the North East Mississippi Association of Free Will Baptist, met with New Macedonia Church, three miles northeast of Tupelo, Miss., on Friday, Nov. 22, 1935. After several songs and prayer, Rev. M. L. Hollis, Moderator, read orally Psalms 1st Chapt. Prayer offered by Rev. Lee. The Association was declared to be open for business. By the reading of the minutes of the former meeting the following Churches and delegates were listed East Tupelo—Rev. M. L. Hollis and W. G. Prude; New Macedonia—Rev. J. M. Haas and Mrs. J. M. Haas; Antioch—W. F. Bevil, J. R. Davis, M. L. Morris, and Rev. D. M. Smitherman; Stetson Chapel—Martin May; Bethlehem—C. J. Ard; Gauley—W. A. Calder, Mrs. Minnie Calder, Rev. and Mrs. George Lee; New Life—Lonnie Morphis; Beech Springs—C. E. Langston, L. B. Hill, and M. C. Stimbridge; Pleasant Grove—no representative; Springdale—no representative. By move and second we entered into business. An opportunity was given for new Churches to come into our Association. Fawn Grove presented her letter and the following delegates: Sister Effie Murphy and Sister Belle Knight. Rev. J. M. Haas spoke in behalf of Union Hill Church and by request of two of her members, Union Hill was received into this Association. Their delegates were H. F. Price and J. M. Harris. There was a move made and properly sustained by a second that the funds of the Water Valley Association be turned over to the clerk of this Association to be used as Associational funds. The committee appointed to submit the Constitution, rules of decorum, and Articles of Faith made their report. The Association, after discussing each article and section pro and con, with some minor alterations adopted their report. The Articles of Faith as adopted by the Co-operative General Association December 29, 1916, Pattensburg, Mo., with the changes made at the General Conference of Free Will Baptist which met with Choffers Chapel Free Will Baptist Church of Nashville, Tenn., on Nov. 5, 6, 7, 1935 were adopted as our Articles of Faith. Adjourned for dinner. Rev. George Lee preached at 2:00 o'clock hour from 1st Chapter Rom., verse 16: "I am ready . . ."

The Moderator made each delegate a committee of one to work up an interest among our churches as to the proposition of financing a Mission Movement that we may be able to purchase a tent and finance an evangelist and other Missionary work. There was a move and properly sustained second that we meet in three months from this date in a quarterly meeting to report as to what our accomplishments have been in our Missionary Move. Friday before the fourth Sunday in February is the time and Antioch Church the place for this meeting. The next session of this Association was voted to New Life Church in Pontotoc County. By move Rev. J. M. Haas will preach the introductory Sermon Saturday at 11:00 o'clock. It was moved and seconded that the present officers hold their places through the next Association. The Moderator appointed the following committees:

Executive—M. E. Carpenter, East Tupelo; J. T. Alexander, New Macedonia; M. C. Stimbridge, Beech Springs; B. G. Enlow, Fawn Grove; Luther Morris, Antioch; Bill Corder, New Life; Martin May, Stetson Chapel; G. L. Dulan, Springdale; Johnnie Calder, Cauley; J. V. Bennett, Pleasant Grove; J. M. Harris, Union Hill; Bill Stubblefield, Bethlehem.

Education—Sister Roy Post. Nola Bevil, and Sister Effie Murphy.

Temperance—J. R. Davis, Ray Coleman and H. A. Robertson.

Finance—W. G. Knight, W. G. Prude and G. M. Shirley.

Sabbath School—Sister W. G. Knight, Ida Alexander and Gertrude Montgomery.

Obituary—J. M. Franks, C. E. Landston and Rev. D. M. Smitherman.

Resolution—Rev. J. M. Haas, Rev. J. H. Norwood and Rev. W. H. Fondern

Preaching—John E. Brown, L. B. Hill and Sister Fay Bailey.

Move and second to have the clerk turn over to the treasurer the funds he has as minute funds and that the clerk retain \$10 as his fee, giving receipt for same. Move and second to send delegates to the Little Brown Creek Association at Little Brown Church near Booneville, Miss., Friday before the 1st Sunday in September, 1936. Rev. J. M. Haas. Rev. M. L. Hollis and Rev. George C. Lee were appointed.

CONSTITUTION

Section 1.—This organization shall be known as the North East Mississippi Association of Free Will Baptist and shall be composed of ministers deacons, clerks, and delegates of the various churches of this Association.

Section 2.—The purpose of the Association shall be to bring together our churches throughout North Mississippi for a closer union among our people and the establishment of new churches in our state.

Section 3.—This Association shall be composed of churches of the above named territory together with like bodies of same Faith and Practice which may be hereafter admitted.

Section 4.—Each church shall be allowed 3 delegated representatives and they must be duly appointed by their church while in conference and bear credentials from the same to this body.

Section 5.—Visiting ministers and delegates may be seated as advisory members in this body.

Church, Pastor, Address	Meeting Date	Delegate	Deacons	Experience
East Tupelo— M. L. Hollis, Tupelo, Miss.	Fourth Sunday & Night	W. G. Prude Sister Roy Post	M. E. Carpenter, I. L. Stanley, Will Pool, Preston Moisey, Raymond Windows	Lucille Wi Tupelo, 1 2
Beech Springs— J. M. Haas, Tupelo, Miss., Rt. 2	Second Sunday	L. B. Hill M. C. Stimbridge C. E. Langston Mrs. J. M. Haas		M. C. Stimb Saltillo, 1 6
New Macedonia— Rev. Guinn, Booneville, Ark.				Earl Alexa Tupelo, 1 2
Union Hill—		A. F. Price J. M. Harris		Guntown, 2
Pleasant Grove— J. M. Haas, Tupelo, Miss., Rt. 2		Anna Mae Thomas Mattie Cox J. V. Bennett	Jim Thomas E. E. Stolaker	Jim Thoma Thaxton, 6
Fawn Grove— M. L. Hollis, Tupelo, Miss.		Sister Effie Murph Sister Belle Knight		Mrs. Ray Dorsey, 1
Bethlehem— G. C. Lee, Calhoun City, Miss.	Third Sunday	M. D. Carter Etoye Carter O. A. Tatum	B. E. Sugg, A. W. Graham, S. W. Tucker, C. J. Ard W. K. Stubblefield	C. J. Ard, Springville, 11
New Life— J. M. Haas, Tupelo, Miss., Rt. 2		W. I. Corder E. V. Flanagan T. L. Morphis	T. L. Hancock, J. H. Morphis J. M. Corder	J. H. Rob Pontotoc, t. 4
Stetson Chapel— D. M. Smitherman, Toccopola, Miss.	Second Sunday	Coot Daniels Carl Frezzell Ernest Bramlett	L. M. May, J. W. Inmon, B. O. Talent, D. H. Ferguson	Wayne Bla Toccopola Rt. 1
Antioch— J. M. Haas, Tupelo, Miss., Rt. 2	Third Sunday	P. P. Sledge J. R. Davis J. T. McGregory	Bud Tutor, M. L. Morris	W. F. Bevi Toccopola t. 1
Springdale— R. V. Goyton	Second Sunday	Lonnie Potts Gilbert McLarty H. F. Bevil	Jody Walker, G. L. Dulan T. F. McCord, M. C. Boles,	A. E. Lew Denmark, 2
Gauley— G. C. Lee, Calhoun City, Miss.	Fourth Sunday	Minnie Calder Tillie B. Collins Estelle Lee	H. S. Parker, W. A. Calder, E. H. Keenum, Johnnie Calder	James Cald Calhoun s. 4

*Building New Church—Funds on Hand.
**Value of Parsonage

Sunday School	Mission Funds	Value Church Property	Paid out for All Purposes	Paid Pastor	Total Membership	Died	Expelled	Dismissed by Letter	Received by Recommendation	Received By Letter	Received by Experience
Yes	3.00	6,000.00**	552.50	275.00	183	1			5		2
Yes	5.00	1,500.00	75.00	54.20	80	1			4	2	6
Yes 75 Memb.	2.50	2,000.00		51.00	39			2		6	2
	3.00	500.00									6
	1.50	2,000.00		75.00	82						
No	6.00	1,500.00		45.00		2				1	11
Yes and Leag.	3.00	450.00									
	3.50	800.00			75	1					7
	5.00				90	1					
	4.00	325.08*		58.50	100	2					2
No	5.53	12.50			70					2	4

Section 6.—It shall not be the purpose of this Association to usurp authority over the churches but to recommend such measures as would promote unity of action among the churches, to harmonize the efforts of individual churches to one another in their efforts to accomplish good, and make each other more proficient in their undertakings for good.

Section 7.—This constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of the yearly meeting at any session, notice of such intended alteration having been given in writing, and recorded at the next previous session.

RULES OF DECORUM

Section 1.—The officers of this Association shall consist of a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, which shall be elected at the close of each session by a majority vote of the delegates present.

Section 2.—This Association shall hold its sessions annually beginning on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September and continuing through Monday.

Section 3.—The Moderator shall have the right to appoint all committees.

Section 4.—The clerk shall have the right to supervise the printing of the minutes, and shall be allowed ten dollars (\$10.00) for his services.

Section 5.—No member shall absent himself from the body without leave of the Moderator.

Section 6.—All members desiring to speak shall arise, address the Moderator, and personal reflections shall be avoided.

Section 7.—All motions made and seconded shall be open for discussion, but debate may be shut off at any time by a majority of the members of the Association.

Section 8.—If any proposition of motion under debate contain two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member and the vote taken separately.

Section 9.—Motions made and lost shall not be recorded on the minutes unless so ordered at the time.

Section 10.—No one shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject, and not more than ten minutes at a time; without special leave from the body.

Section 11.—All questions shall be decided by a majority of the members present.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

Article 1.—THE BIBLE—The scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God and the scriptures of the New Testament are our infallible rule of Faith and Practice.

Article 2.—GOD—There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe, and in the Scriptures as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are to love, adore, and obey.

Article 3.—CHRIST—Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in his divine nature truly God, in his human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, he is now risen and glorified and is our ever present Saviour and Lord.

Article 4.—THE HOLY SPIRIT—The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all attributes of God. He is the reprover, comforter, guide and sanctifier of men.

Article 5.—THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD—God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and the laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

Article 6.—THE SINFULNESS OF MAN—Man was created innocent but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity therefore inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God.

Article 7.—THE WORK OF CHRIST—The Son of God by his incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

Article 8.—THE TERMS OF SALVATION—The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Saviour and Lord with purpose to love and obey him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

Article 9.—ELECTION—God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become his elect.

Article 10.—FREEDOM OF THE WILL—The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish.

Article 11.—SALVATION FREE—God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take the water of life freely.

Article 12.—PERSEVERANCE—All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.

Article 13.—GOSPEL ORDINANCES—Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel. Feet Washing, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers.

Article 14.—THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH—The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.

Article 15.—RESURRECTION, JUDGMENT AND FINAL RETRIBUTION—The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done ill unto the resurrection of judgment; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

ORDAINED MINISTERS:

J. H. Norwood	Toccopolo,	Miss.
M. L. Hollis	Tupelo,	Miss.
J. M. Haas	Tupelo,	Miss.
W. H. Fondern	Denmark,	Miss.
D. M. Smitherman	Toccopolo,	Miss.
E. M. Lewis	Denmark,	Miss.
Geo. C. Lee	Calhoun City,	Miss.

ASSOCIATIONAL FUNDS:

Antioch	\$ 5.00
Bethlehem	6.00
Stetson Chapel	3.50
Springdale	4.00
Gauley	5.53
Pleasant Grove	3.00
New Life	3.00
New Macedonia	2.50
East Tupelo	5.00
Fawn Grove	1.50
Beech Springs	3.00
Union Hill	
Total	\$42.03

In Memory

We Mourn the Loss of the Following Worthy Members
of Our Association:

East Tupelo.....	HERSHELL HAGGERT	
Beech Springs.....		One
Antioch	J. P. HAMILTON	
Stetson Chapel	BILL AKERS	
Bethlehem		Two
Springdale	JOSIE STARNES	
Springdale	BILLIE SULLIVAN	