

12.11.1936

MINUTES
of the
Second Annual Session of the
NORTH EAST MISSISSIPPI
ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST
CONVENED WITH
NEW LIFE CHURCH

*On Saturday Morning at 10 O'clock,
the 26th day of September, 1936.*

*3500
2400*



MINUTES
OF THE
Second Annual Session of the
North East Mississippi Association of
FREE WILL BAPTIST

CONVENED WITH
NEW LIFE CHURCH
On Saturday Morning at 10 O'clock,
the 26th day of September, 1936.

Eld. J. M. Haas Preached the Introductory Sermon.
Text: Numbers 13-30.

NEXT SESSION
Will convene with Fawn Grove Church, 10 miles East of Tupelo,
Miss., on Saturday at 10 o'clock before the Fourth
Sunday in September, 1937.

Rev. Geo. C. Lee will Preach the Introductory Sermon.

MINUTES

FIRST DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION

The Association met by singing and prayer. Rev. Geo. C. Lee read 13th chapter of I Cor. Prayer by Eld. J. H. Norwood, after which there was a move sustained by second that Rev. J. M. Haas act as Moderator Pro Tem until the acting Moderator appears, as the Moderator, Rev. M. L. Hollis, was unavoidably detained on account of a funeral.

Rev. Haas took the Moderator's chair and called for the reports from the different churches, and the following church letters were handed in: Gauley, Stetson Chapel, Antioch, Springdale, Bethlehem, Pleasant Grove, Beech Springs, New Macedonia, and New Life.

Motion and second that the Moderator appoint Recording Clerk, and Sister Edna Tallant was appointed. Letters were read and Delegates seated.

Pearce Chapel Church letter received and Delegates seated. ~~Damascus Church letter~~ was also received and Delegates seated. Then two churches came into our body on petitionary letters. By motion and second the delegated body met at the altar and had handshaking in a Christian fellowship meeting, and the Moderator declared the body ready for business.

Rev. D. W. Jones, of the Little Brown Creek Association, was seated as a corresponding messenger.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

Preaching Committee—Jno. E. Brown, W. F. Bevill, G. L. Dulin.

Executive Committee—L. E. Duncan, Ed Smith, J. T. Alexander, M. C. Stimbridge, B. G. Enloe, L. M. Morris, Bill Corder, Martin May, Jack Parker, J. A. Bennett, Bill Stubblefield.

Education Committee—Effie Murphree and Nola Bevill.

Temperance Committee—J. R. Davis, H. A. Roberts, and Mrs. S. O. Johnson.

Finance Committee—Homer Bevill, W. W. Burrough, W. W. White.

Obituary Committee—D. M. Smitherman, Rice Hill, Isom White.

Resolution Committee—J. M. Haas, J. H. Norwood, W. H. Fondren.

Bro. Homer Bevill was appointed Treasurer Pro Tem to act until Bro. W. G. Prude, the present Treasurer, arrived.

The Preaching Committee made their reports, as follows: Rev. W. H. Fondren Saturday night at 7:30, followed by Rev. D. M. Smitherman; Rev. D. W. Jones to preach at 9:30 A.M., Sunday; Rev. M. L. Hollis Sunday at 11 o'clock; (he did not arrive and Rev. Lewis preached); Rev. G. C. Lee at 2:30 P.M., subject, "Communion"; Rev. J. H. Norwood at 7:30 P.M., subject, "Feet Washing."—G. L. Dulin, J. E. Brown, T. L. Handcock, J. M. Corder, and W. F. Bevill, Committee.

The Association adjourned to meet Monday at 9 o'clock.

Rev. Fondren preached Saturday night, followed by Rev. Dave Smitherman. Rev. D. W. Jones preached Sunday morning at 9:30,

subject, "Resurrection," and at 11 o'clock Rev. E. M. Lewis preached, subject, "Behold the Man." Adjourned for dinner.

Rev. Geo. C. Lee delivered the message at the 2:30 hour, subject, "The Lord's Supper," and Rev. J. H. Norwood preached at 7:30, after which the Association had a very lovely Communion and Feet Washing service.

THIRD DAY—MORNING SESSION

Met by reading and prayer. Rev. M. L. Hollis, according to the committee to preach at 11 o'clock, was substituted by Rev. M. E. Carpenter, who preached a very able sermon, followed by Rev. W. A. Green.

The East Tupelo Church Delegates arrived and were seated.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Associational Funds Collected | \$48.41 |
| Tent Fund, Bethlehem | 4.25 |
| Tent Fund, Fawn Grove | 3.10 |

LIST OF ORDAINED PREACHERS

Rev. J. H. Norwood, Toccopola, Miss.
 Rev. D. M. Smitherman, Toccopola, Miss.
 Rev. W. H. Holman, Toccopola, Miss.
 Rev. M. L. Hollis, Tupelo, Miss.
 Rev. J. M. Haas, Tupelo, Miss.
 Rev. M. E. Carpenter, Tupelo, Miss.
 Rev. W. A. Green, Columbus, Miss.
 Rev. M. R. Allen, Smithville, Miss.
 Rev. W. H. Fondren, Denmark, Miss.
 Rev. Geo. C. Lee, Calhoun City, Miss.
 Rev. E. M. Lewis, Denmark, Miss.

The Moderator called for reports and the following reports were made:

Education—Read and adopted. We your committee, make our report: We believe in Education. God says study to show thyself approved of God; a workman that needeth not be ashamed, and we know we should be educated to God's Word, that we may know how to live, what to do and what to teach others. Therefore, we recommend first, the study of the Bible, in home, in Sunday School, by good literature, such as our denomination publishes and approves; and that our parents go with their children, and send the children, and stay home themselves, and bring up the child in the way it should go. Therefore, we believe in Sunday School, prayer meeting, Leagues, Young People's Unions, Bible Schools and institutions of Christian learning.

Nola Bevill, Effie Murphree, Committee.

Temperance—We your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to submit the following report: First, we ought to be temperate in our walk, talk, and in all things, especially drink of beverages, and that our preachers and lay-members assist out peace officers in enforcing temperance laws, and to abstain from sanction and sale of intoxicating

beverages, as we find no drunkard hath eternal life abiding in Him.

J. R. Davis, Mrs. S. O. Johnson, Mrs. H. A. Roberts, Committee.

Sunday School—We, the Committee on Sunday School, find the following churches have Sunday schools: Springdale, Pleasant Grove, New Macedonia, East Tupelo, Fawn Grove, and Pearce Chapel. We heartily favor Sunday School in all the churches; we believe it to be one of the best trainings in the Lord's work.

Ida Alexander, Ila White, Ludie Bramblett, Committee.

Executive Committee—We, the Executive Committee, report as follows: We find all our ministers in good standing, and in fellowship with their respective churches. We ask that the churches make an effort to pay the balance on our Gospel tent at an early date. We urge our people, and especially our ministers, strive to carry the doctrine of our Lord and Master into the different communities and towns of Northeast Mississippi, with the object of founding new churches.

L. E. Duncan, J. T. Alexander, J. F. Parker, M. C. Stimbridge, M. E. Carpenter, M. L. Morris, G. L. Dulin, J. E. Smith, W. A. Calder, Com.

Resolution Committee—We, your committee, report as follows: We recommend that the Association arrange for the keeping of the Divine Ordinances, as is taught by the New Testament Scriptures, on Sunday night of each session, pertaining to the Lord's Supper and Feet Washing. We recommend the next session of our Association meet with Fawn Grove Church, 12 miles East of Tupelo, Miss. We further recommend that we hold our quarterly meetings regularly; also that we send delegates to other Sister Associations as corresponding delegates. We further recommend that the Clerk of this Association write a card of thanks, expressing our thanks and deep appreciation to the good people of New Life Church and community for their hospitality toward us while here. We also recommend that Rev. Geo. C. Lee preach the introductory sermon at the next session of this Association.

Elds. J. H. Norwood, W. H. Fondren, J. M. Haas, Committee.

Finance Committee—We, your committee, make our report: We find associational funds collected to the amount of \$48.91; Clerk's fee, \$10.00; leaving balance of \$38.91; Church property of Association valued at \$20,450. For complete report of finances look to statistical table.

Homer Bevill, W. W. Burrough, W. W. White, Committee.

Obituary Committee—We, your Committee on Obituaries, make our report: We find that Bethlehem has lost 3 of her members—Rev. H. B. Rogers, Sister Hulda Tucker, and Walter Denton; also find Stetson Chapel lost one—Coot Danial; and New Life one—Bro. Tom McCoy; Pearce Chapel one; Fawn Grove one—Bud McDonald. Life is uncertain and Death is sure. May we as followers of Jesus, ever be ready to go when He calls.

R. W. Hill, Isom White, Committee.

There was an offering taken at this time for the Columbus church building fund, and \$27.00 was collected and turned over to M. L. Hollis for the said church.

There was a recess taken at this time for preaching. Rev. M. E. Carpenter filled the stand at the 11 o'clock hour, followed by Rev. W. A. Green, and each delivered very innteresting sermons.

Adjourned for lunch.

THIRD DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION

The Association met for the final session. Fawn Grove and East Tupelo church letters were read and adopted.

There was a move and sustained by second, that the Columbus church which was just recently ordained, be received into this Assoiation by statements from Rev. M. L. Hollis and Rev. W. A. Green. The Association also, in receiving the Columbus church, received with it one licensed preacher, Rev. W. A. Green, who by request of said church and Rev. M. L. Hollis as his pastor, was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the following counsel of ministers: Rev. Hollis, leading, Rev. M. E. Carpenter, and Rev. J. M. Haas.

The Association was divided into two section, to be known as the East and West sections. The following churches compose the East Section: East Tupelo, New Macedonia, Beech Springs, Fawn Grove, Union Hill, Damascus, Pearce Chapel. The West: Gauley, New Life, Antioch, Springdale, Pleasant Grove, Stetson Chapel and Bethlehem.

It was moved that the first quarterly meeting meet with Beech Springs on Friday before the second Sunday in December, 1936. The second quarterly meeting to meet with Pleasant Grove on Friday before the second Sunday in January, 1937. The third quarterly meeting to meet with Pearce Chapel on Friday before the fourth Sunday in May, 1937, and the last one to meet with Damascus church on Friday before the fifth Sunday in August, 1937, in Kemper County.

There was a collection taken for the purpose of paying off the tent account, for which debt Rev. M. L. Hollis was standing. The collection amounted to \$24.80, together with what had already been paid, still left us in debt some \$30.00 or more, so there was a move to pay the minute funds into the hands of the Treasurer, and after this was applied we found we still lacked a few dollars; so another collection was taken, and the tent account was paid in full. Thanks.

The Moderator appointed Delegates to the Vernon Association, as follows: Revs. J. M. Haas, M. E. Carpenter, and D. M. Smitherman; and to the Little Brown Creek Association, which convenes in 1937, Bro. L. E. Duncan, Rev. J. H. Norwood, and Rev. Geo. C. Lee. Delegates to Jasper Association for the 1936 session were: Rev. M. L. Hollis and W. G. Prude. Same Delegates to Mt. Moriah.

The Association went into the election of officer for the ensuing year, and the following were elected: Rev. M. E. Carpenter, Moderator; Rev. M. L. Hollis, Vice Moderator; Rev. Geo. C. Lee, Clerk; W. G. Prude. Treasurer.

By a rising vote of thanks and appreciation, the Association expressed to the good people of New Life Church and community their thanks for their kindnesses and courtesies shown this body while in

session with them. May the good Lord ever bless the New Life community, and God be with you till we meet again.

REV. M. L. HOLLIS, Moderator.

REV. GEO. C. LEE, Clerk.

W. G. PRUDE, Treasurer.

ASSOCIATIONAL FUNDS

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| East Tupelo | \$5.00 |
| Gauley | 4.86 |
| Bethlehem | 5.25 |
| Pearce Chapel | 2.00 |
| New Life | 6.50 |
| Antioch | 4.50 |
| New Macedonia | 3.00 |
| Stetson Chapel | 2.90 |
| Springdale | 4.70 |
| Pleasant Grove | 3.00 |
| Fawn Grove | 1.70 |
| Beech Springs | 2.00 |
| Damascus | 2.00 |
| Union Hill | |

TOTAL.....\$47.41

TENT FUND

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Bethlehem | \$4.25 |
| Fawn Grove | \$3.10 |

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.

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.—PERSEVERENCE—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 per-

petuated under the Gospel. Feet Washing, an ordinance teaching humility, of univrsal 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."

STATISTICAL TABLE No. 1

| Churches..... | No. Members..... | Meeting Days..... | Sunday School..... | Mission Fund..... | Value Church Property..... | Paid Out For All Purposes..... | Paid Pastor..... | Died..... | Dismissed by Letter..... | Rec'd. by Recd... Received by Letter..... | Rec'd. by Exper..... | Ladies Aid..... |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------|--------------------------|--|----------------------|-----------------|
| Beech Springs | 83 | | Yes | \$2.00 | \$1500 | \$ 17.50 | | | | | | 3 |
| New Macedonia | 41 | 1st Sunday..... | 60 | 3.00 | 2000 | | | | | | | 2 |
| *Pearce Chapel | 323 | 3rd Sunday..... | 78 | 2.00 | 2000 | | | 1 | | | | 30 16 |
| Bethlehem | 150 | 3rd Sunday..... | 40 | 5.25 | 1500 | | 80 | 3 | 4 | | | 6 |
| *Antioch | | 3rd Sunday..... | 71 | 4.50 | 750 | | | | | | | 6 |
| Gauley | 64 | 4th Sunday..... | No | 4.86 | 750 | | 15 | 1 | | | | 1 |
| New Life | 75 | 4th Sunday..... | | 6.50 | 700 | | | | | | | |
| Damascus | 34 | 5th Sunday..... | | 2.00 | 700 | 107.00 | 75 | | | | | |
| Springdale | 45 | 2nd Sunday..... | | 4.70 | 1000 | | 104 | | | 3 | | 1 |
| Pleasant Grove | | 2nd Sunday..... | 50 | 3.00 | 600 | | | | | | | 6 |
| *Fawn Grove | 102 | | 50 | 1.75 | 1500 | 27.50 | 80 | 2 | 1 | 6 | | 14 |
| Union Hill | | | | | 500 | | | | | | | |
| Stetson Chapel | 70 | 2nd Sunday..... | 65 | 2.90 | 700 | 30.00 | 22.11 | 1 | | | | |
| *East Tupelo | | 2nd & 4th Sundays..... | Yes | 5.00 | 6500 | 350.00 | 240 | | | 17 | | 32 |

*—Above churches report Leagues, with Pearce Chapel 68 members; and Fawn Grove 45 members.

957

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STATISTICAL TABLE No. 2

| CHURCHES | CLERKS | DEACONS | DELEGATES | PASTOR & ADDRESS |
|--------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Beech Springs | M. R. Stimbrige, Saltillo, Miss., R. 2 | | | M. L. Hollis, Tupelo, Miss. |
| New Macedonia | Earl Alexander, Tupelo, Miss. | | A. M. Shirley, Alvon Roberts, Ida Alexander | G. C. Lee, Calhoun City, Miss. |
| Pearce Chapel | E. E. Cowart..... | S. L. Cawley, J. M. Thompson, F. R. Brook | W. W. Burrough, L. E. Duncan, L. Burrough | M. L. Hollis, Tupelo, Miss. |
| Bethlehem | O. A. Tatum, Pontotoc, Miss. | B. E. Sugg, A. M. Grayham, Charlie Ard, Bill Stubblefield .. | A. A. Montgomery, Ef- fie May, M. O. Carter | G. C. Lee, Calhoun City, Miss. |
| Antioch | W. F. Bevill, Toccopola, Miss. | Bud Tutor, L. M. Morris..... | L. M. Morris, Nole Bevill, J. R. Davis..... | J. M. Haas, Tupelo, Miss. |
| Gauley | J. R. Calder, Calhoun City, Miss..... | H. S. Parker, W. A. Calder, Johnnie Calder, E. H. Keenum.... | Jack Parker, Estelle Lee, Jewel Goodson..... | G. C. Lee, Calhoun City, Miss. |
| New Life | Edna Tallant, Houlka, Miss., R.F.D.... | Jim Corder, T. L. Hancock, Jessie Morris | A. A. Wages, R. W. Hill, T. L. Morphis..... | J. M. Haas, Tupelo, Miss. |
| Damascus | Mortimer McKee, DeKalb, Miss., R. 6..... | | | M. L. Hollis, Tupelo, Miss. |
| Springdale | H. F. Bevill, Denmark, Miss. | Todie Walker, A. L. Dulin, T. F. McCord, M. C. Boles..... | Isom White, Pearl Potts, Ila Sullivan..... | J. M. Haas, Tupelo, Miss. |
| Pleasant Grove ... | Annie May Thomas, Thaxton, Miss. | Jim Thomas, J. V. Bennett, Wilburn Warren | J. V. Bennett, Wilburn Warren, Selliman Burk | J. M. Haas, Tupelo, Miss. |
| Fawn Grove | Mrs. Roy Comer, Dorsey, Miss. | | | M. L. Hollis, Tupelo, Miss. |
| Stetson Chapel.... | J. R. Bramblet, Toccopola, Miss. | L. M. May, J. M. Inmon, Wayne Bland | Luda Bramblet, Martin May, Otis Ferguson.... | D. M. Smitherman, Toccopola, Miss..... |
| East Tupelo | Loucille Windham | I. L. Stanley, Will Poole, Pres- ton Mosley, Raymond Windows | W.A. Prude, Mrs. M.E. Hollis, M. E. Carpenter | M. L. Hollis, Tupelo, Miss. |