

MINUTES

of the

39th ANNUAL SESSION

of the

ROCKFISH CONFERENCE

of the

Original Free Will Baptists

convening with

The Eastside Free Will Baptist Church

AT RED SPRINGS, N. C.

October 9th, 10th, 1947

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LIST OF MINISTERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

M. L. Baxley	Red Springs, N. C.
A. J. Pearson	St. Pauls, N. C.
C. W. Bennett	St. Pauls, N. C.
J. H. Galloway	Lumberton, N. C.
Steve English	Mills Rural Station, Rockingham, N. C.
R. L. Clark	Hamlet, N. C.
H. S. Clark	Laurinburg, N. C.
G. W. Huestas	Patrick, S. C.
L. C. Coats	Cheraw, S. C.

Proceedings

Opened session with song by congregation "There Shall Be Showers of Blessings." Devotion was conducted by Rev. C. W. Bennett, read from chapter 4 of Hebrews. Song by congregation: "The Lily of the Valley."

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Sabbath School—Brother Pat Hodge, Brother Rudolph Baxley, Rev. Steve English, chairman.

Orphanage—Sister Ruth Hodges, Sister Galloway, Rev. H. S. Clark, chairman.

Education—Rev. R. N. Hinnant, Rev. J. W. Stanley, Rev. J. H. Galloway, chairman.

Missions—Sister Belle Carver, Brother J. W. McLain, Rev. C. W. Bennett, chairman.

ROLL CALL OF MINISTERS

M. L. Baxley, present; A. J. Pearson, present; C. W. Bennett, present; J. H. Galloway, present; Steve English, present; R. L. Clark, present; H. S. Clark, present; G. W. Heustas, present; L. C. Coats, absent.

Visiting ministers: Rev. R. N. Hinnant, Western Association; Rev. J. W. Stanley, Delegate from the Cape Fear Conference.

Song by congregation—"At the Cross."

Dismissed for recess by Rev. Stanley.

ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Song by congregation—"I Am Bound for the Promised Land." Prayer by Brother Wm. Edwards. Song: "The Gloryland Way." Sermon by Rev. R. N. Hinnant taken from 1st chapter of Romans, 16th verse; Subject: "The Preaching of the Gospel of Christ."

Song—"Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus."

Adjourned for lunch.

Dismissed by Rev. Bennett.

1:00 P. M.

Song: "Lift Him Up."

Devotional by Rev. J. H. Galloway. Prayer by Bro. Pat Hodge.

BUSINESS PERIOD

It was moved and carried that we, the Rockfish Association, change our name to the Rockfish Conference.

It was moved and carried that we, the Rockfish Conference, make up a collection to be given to the Eastside F. W. B. Church for building purposes, the amount received was \$12.15.

The people of Bethel F. W. B. Church and the people of Bethlehem F. W. B. Church requested their representatives to present them to the Rockfish Conference for membership.

It was moved and carried that we, the Rockfish Conference, receive these two churches into our body.

It was moved and carried that one person of each committee be designated as chairman, this will be indicated in our list of committees.

Rev. M. L. Baxley reports his trip to the State Convention and his first meeting with the Board of Directors of the Orphanage Home, after he was appointed as a member at the State Convention.

Brother John Patterson encouraged us to work harder for our Conference; he said—since it's birth in 1912, the Rockfish Conference has seen much darker hours than now, and he had great hopes for it's future growth and survival.

Adjournment at 3:00 P. M.

Dismissed by Rev. Stanley.

EVENING SERVICES

7:30 P. M.

Devotional by Rev. C. W. Bennett. Sermon by Rev. McQueen, Pastor of the Westside Missionary Baptist Church, Red Springs.

SECOND DAY

10:00 A. M.

Opened with song by congregation "Wonderful Words of Life." Prayer by Rev. J. H. Galloway. Song: "I Love My Saviour." Devotional by Rev. J. W. Stanley, read from 17th chapter of St. John.

Reports of Committees:

EDUCATION REPORT

We, your Education Committee, see the need of a trained ministry and wish to express our desires to see more young preachers attend our Bible College in Nashville, Tenn.

We also ask each and every church to support the said school by our prayers and money.

Your committee,

R. N. Hinnant

J. W. Stanley

J. H. Galloway

ORPHANAGE REPORT

We, your Committee for the Orphanage, urge our members of this Con-

ference to not forget our children at Middlesex; we ask all of you to designate certain weeks or days of the next year for Orphanage collections.

Your committee,

Bro. H. S. Clark
Sister J. H. Galloway
Sister Ruth Hodges

MISSION REPORT

We, your Committee for Missions, beseech you not to forget the purpose for which our various missions are destined to do; so let's put all the effort that we have to the cause. We can find a great deal of Home Mission work to do, just look around among us at the sufferers. We urge all of you to do your best.

Your committee,

C. W. Bennett
J. W. McLain
Sister Stella Hodges

SABBATH SCHOOL REPORT

We, your Committee for the Sabbath School, advocate a better and larger Sunday School. Although we have as good a Sunday School as any other conference, we urge our teachers and officers to offer a better and more interesting exercise to our young people so as to encourage their attendance.

Your committee,

Steve English
Rudolph Baxley

Letter read by the clerk from the Albemarle Conference as follows:
"To the Rockfish Association now in session—Greetings:

The Albemarle Conference consisting of nineteen (19) churches located in the eastern part of the State send greetings and salutations to your honorable body. We have enjoyed a most successful session of the conference this year and we have included you brethren in our prayers and interest that the cause of our church may expand and be carried unto the uttermost parts of the earth.

This message sent by a vote of the conference.

Rev. W. A. Hales, Moderator
Rev. R. P. Harris, Secretary
Kenly, N. C."

Recess—10:50 A. M.

11:00 A. M.

Song: "The Gloryland Way." Prayer by Rev. C. W. Bennett. Special Song by Charlie and Billy Baxley—"Blessed Jesus Hold My Hand."

Rev. Steve English introduced Rev. J. A. Evans to the congregation.

Sermon by Rev. J. A. Evans—Proverbs 29:18.

An offering was taken up for our orphanage and given directly to the Superintendent of the Home, Rev. J. A. Evans. The amount, \$16.32.

Adjourned for lunch. Dismissed by Rev. Huestas.

1:00 P. M.

Song—"The Old Account Was Settled Long Ago."

Devotional by Rev. H. S. Clark, read from Malachi, chapter 4.

Special songs by Charlie Baxley and group: 1. "When He Reached Down His Hand for Me." 2. "The Old Country Church." 3. "Kneel At the Cross."

Rev. J. A. Evans made a fine talk of our Home and the children. He asked us all to do our best for the children. Our Orphanage Home is 27 years old.

Called for Church Letters and reported as follows:

SANDY GROVE—Delegates: Carey Bennett and Sister Myrtle Beasley. Members Received 11, Baptized 9, Dismissed 7, Died 2, Total membership 56. Condition of Prayer Meeting—Fair. Condition of Sunday School—Good. Average No. of Pupils 60, No. of Officers 7, No. of Teachers 4. Paid Pastor \$91.50. Paid Evangelist \$72.85. Home Missions \$75.00. Building and Repairs \$800.00. Enclosed for Minutes \$5.00. Ministers belonging to our church: Rev. C. W. Bennett, Rt. 2, St. Pauls, N. C., and Rev. A. J. Pearson, St. Pauls, N. C. Pastor—M. L. Baxley, Red Springs. Mrs. D. B. Thames, Clerk.

MT. MORIAH—Delegates: Mrs. Stella Hodges and Miss Ruth Hodges. State of Religion—Very Good. Members Received this year 1, Died 1, Total membership 43. Condition of Sunday School—Fair. Average No. of Pupils 25. No. of Officers 2. No. of Teachers 2. Paid Pastor \$161.98. Paid Evangelist \$95.76. Home Missions \$11.75. Foreign Missions \$13.37. Building and Repairs \$66.05. For Education \$10.00. For Publication \$16.25. Enclosed for Minutes \$5.00. Pastor's Name Rev. W. L. Jernigan, Bladenboro, N. C. H. P. Hodges, Moderator, Mrs. Mattie Norton, Clerk, Rt. 1, Hamlet, N. C.

ST. JOHN—Delegates: Bros. Early Gainey, J. W. McLain, Jr., and J. W. McLain, Sr. State of Religion—Good. Sunday School—Good. No. on roll 60. No. baptized 1. Dismissed none. Total membership 87. Paid Pastor \$306.93. Minute Funds \$2.50. Ministers belonging to our church: Rev. G. W. Huestas, Patrick, S. C., Rev. L. C. Coates, Cheraw, S. C. Pastor, Rev. Steve English, Rockingham, N. C. Clerk, Dorothy McLain.

HICKORY GROVE—Delegates: Sisters Avy Jane Lee and Edna B. Blackwell. Minute fund \$5.00. State of Religion—Good. Members received this year 11. Total membership 30. Condition of Sunday School—Good. Average No. of Pupils 15. No. of Officers 3. No. of Teachers 3. Paid Pas-

tor \$78.37. Paid Orphanage \$93.00. Paid Missions \$16.30. Paid for lights \$18.00. Value of Church Property \$2500. Minister belonging to our church—Rev. M. L. Baxley. Pastor, M. L. Baxley. Clerk, Armaitha Sports, Rt. 1, Parkton, N. C.

BETHEL—Delegates: Sister Galloway, Sister Long and Sister Grimsley. Sent for minutes \$2.00. Sunday School—Good. Prayer Meeting—Good. New members received 3. Dismissed none. Total membership 11. Rev. J. H. Galloway, Pastor, R. F. D., Lumberton, N. C. Clerk, Ovella Grimsley.

BETHLEHEM—Delegates: Bro. Frank Hunt, Bro. Harvey Polson. State of Religion—Good. State of Sunday School—Good. Members received 1. Members dismissed none. No. on roll 22. Paid Pastor \$500.00. Paid Rev. R. L. Clark \$200.00. Pastor, H. S. Clark. Clerk, Esther Polson, Rt. 2, Box 43, Patrick, S. C.

PINEY PLAINS—No report.

RED SPRINGS—Delegates: Bro. Rudolph Baxley and Bro. Earle Edwards. No. of members 9. Condition of Sunday School—Good. Average No. of pupils 27. No. of officers 5. Paid out for building purposes \$600.00. Enclosed for minutes \$4.00. Pastor, M. L. Baxley. Clerk, Rudolph Baxley.

REPORTS OF MINISTER'S WORK

Rev. H. S. Clark—Sermons preached 50; miles travelled about 2,000.

Rev. R. L. Clark—Sermons preached 13; miles travelled about 1,500.

Rev. J. H. Galloway—Sermons preached 12. Superintended and taught in Sunday School and visited the sick.

Rev. M. L. Baxley—Pastor of three churches. Held various Revival meetings. Miles travelled about 3,000. Member of the Board of Directors of the Orphanage.

Rev. Steve English—Pastor of St. Johns Church at Patrick, S. C.

Rev. A. J. Pearson—Pastor of Piney Plains Church.

Rev. G. W. Huestas—

Rev. L. C. Coates—

OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Moderator ----- M. L. Baxley
Clerk ----- W. H. Edwards
Treasurer ----- E. R. Polson
Ass't Treasurer ----- C. W. Bennett

ORDAINING COUNCIL

M. L. Baxley A. J. Pearson Steve English

CHURCH CLERKS AND ADDRESSES

Sandy Grove—Mrs. D. B. Thames, St. Pauls, N. C.
Hickory Grove—Mrs. Armaitha Sports, Parkton, N. C.
Mt. Moriah—Mrs. Mattie Norton, Hamlet, N. C.
St. John—Miss Dorothy McLain, Patrick, S. C.
Bethel—Mrs. Ovella Grimsley, Rt. 1, Lumberton, N. C.
Bethlehem—Miss Esther Polson, Rt. 1, Patrick, S. C.
Piney Plains—Not known.

It was moved and carried that the 40th annual session would convene with St. John's Church at Patrick, S. C., on Thursday and Friday before the Second Sunday in October, 1948.

It was motioned and so ordered that we stand and give thanks with bowed heads for the two wonderful dinners served on the yard while Rev. J. W. Stanley dismissed with prayer.

Moderator: M. L. Baxley
Secretary: W. H. Edwards
Rt. 2, St. Pauls, N. C.

