

MINUTES
OF THE
81st ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
SALEM FREE WILL BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH
Christian Home
Free Will Baptist Church

BLOUNTSTOWN, FLORIDA 32524

1976

OFFICERS

Bro. Herbert L. Padgett Moderator
Route 1, Box 651, Marianna, Fla. 32446
Rev. Buford Pierce Vice Moderator
Route 1, Box 115, Marianna, Fla. 32446
Mrs. Lillian S. Rodgers Clerk-Treasurer
P. O. Box 126, Bascom, Fla. 32423

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. Odis Whitehead, P.O. Box 385, Malone, Fla. 32445 1978
Rev. Charles Powell, Rt. 1, Box 1, Marianna, Fla. 32446 1979
Bro. Olin Rehberg, Rt. 4, Box 612, Marianna, Fla. 32446 1977

ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. James Pelt, Rt. 1, Box 431, Blountstown, Fla. 32424 1978
Rev. J. J. Scott, P.O. Box 115, Brinson, Ga. 31725 1979
Rev. J. B. Lovering, Rt. 4, Box 834, Marianna, Fla. 32446 1977

MISSION BOARD AND CHURCH EXTENSION

Bro. Willie Sellers, Marianna, Fla. 32446 1978
Rev. Chester Huckaby, Rt. 1, Altha, Fla. 32421 1981
Bro. Edward Baxter, Sneads, Fla. 32460 1977
Rev. William Compton, P.O. Box 60, Marianna, Fla. 32446 1978

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Bro. Mack Glass 1978
Rev. C. A. Williams, P.O. Box 215, Sneads, Fla. 32460 1979
Bro. W. W. Eiland, Rt. 5, Box 40, Marianna, Fla. 32446 1977

FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING 1976

Salem Free Will Baptist Association met with Hickory Grove Free Will Baptist Church on January 13, 1976.

Song service was led by Rev. James Pelt. The following numbers were sung:

"All Hail the Power", Send the Light".

Welcome was given by Rev. J. B. Lovering, Pastor of the host church.

Response by Bro. Herbert Padgett, Moderator.

Morning Devotion by Rev. David Williford, Pastor of Marvin Chapel Church.

His scripture text was Romans 10:1-4.

Body declared in order for business.

MSC to accept the partial report of the Credentials Committee. The report as follows: 12 churches, 12 pastors, 17 deacons, 30 delegates, 9 visitors.

Standing delegates recognized and charged with the duty of seating the appointed delegates.

MSC to seat the appointed delegates.

MSC that the chair appoint a planning committee.

The committee appointed is as follows: Rev. William Compton, Rev. Bill George, Rev. James Pelt, Rev. J. B. Lovering and Rev. Buford Pierce.

Rev. William Compton reported that there had been no meeting of the Mission Board.

Dismissed for recess by Rev. Bill George.

Rev. James Pelt again led the singing. "I Am Thine O Lord".

Morning offering \$67.50.

Special "Others" by Rev. James Pelt.

Rev. James Pelt introduced the morning speaker, Rev. Dennis Owen, Missionary to Sunny Hills. Rev. Owen's text "The Vineyard of the Lord", Scripture, Isaiah 5:1-4, Isaiah 5:25-30, and 6:1-13.

Dismissed for the lunch hour by Rev. Chester Pelt.

AFTERNOON SESSION:

Devotion by Rev. Odis Whitehead.

Scripture, I Cor. 16:13-14.

Body declared in order for business.

MSC to accept the final report of the Credentials Committee.

MSC to accept the Financial Committee's report, given by Rev. Odis Whitehead for Malone Free Will Baptist Church.

MSC to accept the report of the Planning Committee and to table it.

Oral report on The Children's Home given by Rev. Bill George.

MSC to give a rising vote of thanks to the host church.

Announcements.

MSC that we adjourn.

Dismissed by Rev. Odis Whitehead.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT:

We recommend that there be a constitutional change in Article IX Finance. That this article be changed to read as follows:

The General expense of the Association shall be provided by each church according to the number of it's delegates. Each church is urged to send at least 10 percent of it's income to

the Treasurer of the Association quarterly and that 40 percent be retained for the Salem Association purposes and that 60 percent be sent to the State treasurer for State purposes.

That the Moderator receive \$25.00 and the Clerk receive \$50.00 for their services.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. James Pelt
Rev. Buford Pierce
Rev. William Compton
Rev. Bill George
Rev. J. B. Lovering

JANUARY 3, 1976

CHURCHES	CO-OP.	ASSN. PURPOSE	HOME MISSIONS	FOREIGN MISSIONS	CHILDREN HOME	SUPER ANNUAT.	BIBLE COLLEGE	PAYNE ACCT.	SPECIAL OFFERING	SUNNY HILLS	TOTAL
ABE SPRINGS											
CHRISTIAN HOME		10.00						100.00			110.00
COTTONDALE	25.00	7.00									32.00
CYPRESS CREEK											
DAMASCUS		10.00									10.00
GAP POND											
HICKORY GROVE		15.00						30.00		60.00	105.00
HOLLY GROVE	484.59	12.00									496.59
LOVEWOOD											
MALONE	299.50	10.00								144.25	442.75
MARVIN CHAPEL	60.00	4.00									64.00
MIDWAY		2.00	2.00	2.00		2.00					8.00
NEW HOPE		6.00									6.00
PINE GROVE		5.00									5.00
SALEM		10.00		97.00	97.00	97.00	97.00				398.00
SNEADS	20.00	3.00									23.00
TRAVELERS REST	162.16	8.00						30.17			200.33
MORNING OFFERING									67.50		67.50
TOTAL	1039.25	102.00	2.00	99.00	97.00	99.00	97.00	160.17	67.50	204.25	1968.17

SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING 1976

Salem Free Will Baptist Association met April 3, 1976 with Marvin Chapel Church.

Song service led by Rev. James Pelt, "Sunlight, Sunlight".

Prayer by Rev. David Williford.

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee".

Devotional by Bro. Gene Gilbert. Scripture, Psalm 38:1.

"Greatness of God".

Welcome by Rev. Buford Pierce, Host Pastor.

Response by Bro. Herbert Padgett, Moderator.

Body declared in order for business.

MSC to accept the partial report of Credentials Committee.

Report as follows: 24 Visitors, 27 Delegates, 12 Pastors, 13 Deacons, 12 Churches.

Standing delegates recognized and charged with the duty to seat the appointed delegates.

Appointed delegates recognized.

MSC to seat the appointed delegates.

Report on Sunny Hills Mission by Rev. Dennis Owen.

Recess.

"Praise Him, Praise Him".

Prayer by Rev. Odis Whitehead.

"At the Cross".

Offertory prayer by Rev. Buford Pierce.

Rev. Buford Pierce introduced the morning speaker, Rev. Bobby Parker, Pastor of Howard Grove FWB Church, Cottonwood, Ala. Scripture, I Thes. 1:1, Text "Responsible Living, Positional, Patterned, Principal, Purpose and Prepared Living".

Dismissed for noon hour by Rev. Bill George.

AFTERNOON SESSION:

"I Will Work".

Prayer by Rev. Chester Huckaby.

"Footsteps of Jesus".

Devotion by Rev. Bobby Register, Pastor of Cottdale FWB Church. Scripture, Rev. 3:14-20.

Body declared in order for business.

MSC to accept the final report of Credentials Committee.

Report as follows: 27 Visitors, 39 Delegates, 16 Pastors, 13 Deacons, 13 Churches.

MSC to ask each church in the Association to send \$30.00 extra for the next two Associational meetings for Associational purposes to be given by the Association to Sunny Hills Mission.

MSC to accept the Financial report given by Rev. Odis Whitehead for Malone Church.

MSC to give Marvin Chapel Church a rising vote of thanks for their hospitality.

Announcements.

MSC that we adjourn.

Dismissed by Rev. Buford Pierce.

APRIL 3, 1976

CHURCHES	CO-OP.	ASSN. PURPOSE	HOME MISSIONS	FOREIGN MISSIONS	CHILDREN HOME	SUPER ANNUAT.	BIBLE COLLEGE	PAYNE ACCT.	SPECIAL OFFERING	SUNNY HILLS	TOTAL
ABE SPRINGS											
CHRISTIAN HOME		10.00						100.00			110.00
COTTONDALE	25.00	7.00									32.00
CYPRESS CREEK											
DAMASCUS		10.00									10.00
GAP POND											
HICKORY GROVE		15.00						30.00		60.00	105.00
HOLLY GROVE	421.87	12.00									433.87
LOVEWOOD											
MALONE	317.48	10.00								168.74	496.22
MARVIN CHAPEL	60.00	4.00									64.00
MIDWAY		2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00					10.00
NEW HOPE		6.00								25.00	31.00
PINE GROVE	15.00										15.00
SALEM		10.00		98.25	98.25	98.25	98.25				403.00
SNEADS	20.00	3.00									23.00
TRAVELERS REST	132.51	8.00						15.74			156.25
SPECIAL OFFERING									73.09		73.09
TOTAL	991.86	97.00	2.00	100.25	100.25	100.25	98.25	145.74	73.09	253.74	\$1962.44

THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING 1976

Salem Free Will Baptist Association convened with Salem Church on Saturday, July 3, 1976.

Song service was led by Rev. James Pelt.

"When We All Get To Heaven".

Prayer by Rev. James Pelt.

"At the Cross".

Morning devotion by Rev. Buford Pierce. Scripture, Ephesians 5:14.

Text, "Spiritually Filled or Spiritually Intoxicated".

Welcome by Rev. Charles Powell.

Response by Bro. Herbert Padgett, Moderator.

Special prayer for Rev. Bill George.

MSC to accept the partial report of the Credentials Committee: Report as follows: 10 Ministers, 10 Deacons, 34 Delegates, 11 Churches, 26 Visitors.

Standing delegates were recognized and charged with the duty of seating the appointed delegates.

Appointed delegates recognized.

MSC to seat the appointed delegates.

MSC to accept the report of the Mission Board.

Dismissed for recess by Rev. J. B. Lovering.

Song service led by Rev. James Pelt. "Footsteps of Jesus".

"Footsteps of Jesus".

Offertory prayer by Rev. J. B. Lovering.

Morning offering.

"Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus".

"America".

Special, "God Bless America" by Rev. James Pelt.

Morning message by Rev. Odis Whitehead, Scripture, Proverbs 29:18.

Dismissed for lunch by Rev. Chester Huckaby.

AFTERNOON SESSION:

"America the Beautiful".

Prayer by Rev. J. B. Lovering.

"To God be the Glory".

Afternoon devotion by Rev. Charles Powell, Scripture, James 1:5-7, Text, "Prayer".

Body declared in order for business by Bro. Herbert Padgett, Moderator.

MSC to accept the final report of the Credentials Committee. Report as follows: 10 Pastors, 12 Deacons, 34 Delegates, 34 Visitors, 11 Churches.

Special presentation of plaque in memory of Rev. Daniel Pelt by Rev. Charles Powell.

Rev. Chester Huckaby made a suggestion that we recognize our older pastors before they pass away.

MSC to appoint a committee to take care of this recognition. Committee is as follows: Rev. James Pelt, Rev. Chester Huckaby, Rev. J. B. Lovering, Rev. William Compton, and Rev. Buford Pierce.

Announcements.

Financial report given by Rev. Odis Whitehead for Malone Church.

MSC to accept the report.

MSC to give Salem Church a rising vote of thanks for their hospitality.

MSC to adjourn.

Dismissed by Rev. William Compton.

JULY 3, 1976

CHURCHES	CO-OP.	ASSN. PURPOSE	HOME MISSIONS	FOREIGN MISSIONS	CHILDREN HOME	SUPER ANNUAT.	BIBLE COLLEGE	PAYNE ACCT.	SPECIAL OFFERING	TOTAL
ABE SPRINGS										
CHRISTIAN HOME		10.00	30.00					100.00		140.00
COTTONDALE	25.00	7.00								32.00
CYPRESS CREEK										
DAMASCUS		10.00	30.00							40.00
GAP POND										
HICKORY GROVE		15.00	60.00					30.00		105.00
HOLLY GROVE	520.08	12.00								532.08
LOVEWOOD										
MALONE	344.89	10.00						172.44		527.33
MARVIN CHAPEL	60.00	4.00	30.00							94.00
MIDWAY		2.00	3.00		2.00	3.00				10.00
NEW HOPE		6.00								6.00
PINE GROVE		5.00								5.00
SALEM		10.00	30.00	99.25	99.25	99.25	99.25			437.00
SNEADS	20.00	3.00								23.00
TRAVELERS REST	144.53	8.00	30.00					17.90		200.43
SPECIAL OFFERING									41.50	41.50
TOTAL	1114.40	102.00	213.00	99.25	101.25	102.25	99.25	320.34	41.50	\$2193.34

ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 1, 1976

Salem Free Will Baptist Association met October 1, 1976 with Christian Home Church of Blountstown, Florida.

Song service was led by Rev. James Pelt.

"Till the Whole World Knows", "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart".

Prayer by Rev. Chester Huckaby.

Welcome by Rev. Jim Pelt, Pastor of host church.

Response by Bro. Herbert L. Padgett, Moderator.

Body declared in order for business by the Moderator.

Partial report of Credentials Committee gave the following: Preachers, 8 Deacons, 32 Delegates, 9 Churches and 15 Visitors present.

MSC to accept this report.

Standing delegates recognized and charged with the duty of seating appointed delegates.

Appointed delegates recognized. MSC to seat the appointed delegates.

Planning Committee report given by Rev. Jim Pelt.

MSC that the report be tabled until Saturday's session.

Dismissed for recess by Rev. J. B. Lovering.

Rev. Jim Pelt again led singing. "He Keeps Me Singing", "Leaning On The Everlasting Arms".

Prayer by Rev. Charles Powell.

Evening message by Rev. Buford Pierce, Pastor of Marvin Chapel Church. Scripture, II Cor. 12:1-9, Text: "My Grace is Sufficient". 1. In Salvation, 2. In Trial, 3. In Sin, 4. In the Hour of Sorrow, 5. In the Hour of Death.

Announcements.

MSC to adjourn.

Dismissed by Rev. Jim Pelt.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION - OCTOBER 2, 1976

Salem Free Will Baptist Association again convened with Christian Home Church on October 2, 1976.

Song service led by Rev. Buford Pierce. "Take the Name of Jesus with You".

Prayer by Rev. Carey Williams.

"Send the Light", "I Want to be a Worker".

Devotion by Rev. Bill George. Scripture, Acts 9:10, Text: "Four Good Rules for Revival". 1. Salvation, 2. Find Place of Service, 3. Fellowship, 4. Witness.

MSC to accept the report of the Credentials Committee as follows: 10 Pastors, 11 Deacons, 34 Delegates, 12 Visitors, 13 Churches.

Body declared in order for business by Bro. Herbert L. Padgett, Moderator.

MSC that the item on table be removed for consideration.

MSC that we adopt the change in constitution as read.

MSC that we accept the Treasurer's report as given.

MSC that the appointed delegates be recognized and seated. Visitors recognized.

MSC that the Resolution Committee's report be accepted as read by Rev. Buford Pierce.

MSC that the Auxiliary Committee's report be accepted as given by Bro. Gene Gilbert.

MSC that the Stewardship's Committee's report be accepted as given by Snead's Church.

MSC that the Temperance Committee's report be accepted as given by Christian Home.

MSC that the Christian Education's report be accepted as given by Hickory Grove.

Rev. Jim Pelt led in a special service for the aged preachers. Rev. James Roberts, Rev. J. B. Lovering, Rev. Jim Nichols and Rev. Watson were recognized.

Special "To God Be The Glory" by Christian Home Church Choir. "Showers of Blessings".

Offertory prayer by Rev. Carey Williams.

"Rock of Ages".

Morning message by Rev. J. B. Lovering, Scripture, Acts 1:12-14, Acts 2:41-47, Text: "The Church Then and Now".

Dismissed for lunch by Rev. Buford Pierce.

AFTERNOON SESSION:

"I Would Not be Denied".

Special by Dr. Kelton, Salem FWB Bible College, "Say I Do".

Devotion by Rev. Charles Powell. Scripture, John 13:34-35, Text: "The Need for Love".

MSC to accept the final report of the Credentials Committee: 11 Pastors, 15 Deacons, 38 Delegates, 19 Visitors, 15 Churches.

MSC to accept the report of the Committee on Committees' report as given by Salem Church.

MSC to accept the report of the Obituary Committee's report as given by Cottondale Church.

Nominating Committee's report was given.

MSC that the report be accepted as read and vote on item by item.

MSC that all those nominated be elected.

MSC to accept the Ordaining Councils report as given by Rev. J. B. Lovering.

MSC to accept the Finance Committee's report as given by Malone Church.

MSC to accept the Youth Rally's report as given by Bro. Gene Gilbert.

MSC to accept the Men's Fellowship's report as given by Bro. Howard Chafin.

MSC to accept the report of Sunny Hill's Mission as given by Rev. Dennis Owen.

A report was given on Salem Bible College by Dr. Kelton. Announcements.

Delegates appointed to State Association are as follows: Mrs. Mary Nell Whitehead, Mrs. Virginia Pierce, Mrs. Corine George.

MSC that Christian Home Church be given a rising vote of thanks for their love and hospitality.

MSC that we adjourn.

Dismissed by Rev. Bill George.

OCTOBER 1-2, 1976

CHURCHES	CO-OP.	ASSN. PURPOSE	HOME MISSIONS	FOREIGN MISSIONS	CHILDREN HOME	SUPER ANNUAT.	BIBLE COLLEGE	PAYNE ACCT.	SPECIAL OFFERING	SUNNY HILLS	TOTAL
ABE SPRINGS											
CHRISTIAN HOME		40.00						100.00		150.00	290.00
COTTONDALE	25.00	7.00									32.00
CYPRESS CREEK											
DAMASCUS	94.00	10.00								30.00	134.00
GAP POND											
HICKORY GROVE		25.00						30.00		60.00	115.00
HOLLY GROVE	512.70	12.00									524.70
LOVEWOOD	83.49	6.00									89.49
MALONE	187.92	10.00								187.92	385.84
MARVIN CHAPEL	60.00	4.00								30.00	94.00
MIDWAY		10.00									10.00
NEW HOPE		6.00									6.00
PINE GROVE		10.00									10.00
SALEM		10.00		97.00	97.00	97.00	97.00			30.00	428.00
SNEADS	20.00	3.00									23.00
TRAVELERS REST	150.85	8.00						20.09		30.00	208.94
SPECIAL OFFERING									87.92		87.92
TOTAL	1136.96	161.00		97.00	97.00	97.00	97.00	150.09	87.92	517.92	\$2438.89

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING COMMITTEE'S REPORT

ARTICLE IX

The general expense of the Association shall be provided by each church according to the number of delegates. Each church is asked to send five (\$5) dollars per delegate with a minimum of five (\$5) dollars per delegate with a minimum of five (\$5) per church per quarterly meeting.

Each church is asked to send at least ten (10%) percent of its income to the Treasurer of the Salem Association quarterly for the Florida State Cooperative Program. All regular offerings will go into the general fund of the Salem Association.

The Moderator and Clerk shall each receive fifty (\$50) dollars annually for their services.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Buford Pierce
Rev. J. B. Lovering
Rev. James C. Pelt

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

To replace Rev. W. E. George ----- Rev. Charles Powell (1979)

ORDAINING COUNCIL

To replace Rev. J. J. Scott ----- Rev. J. J. Scott (1979)

MISSION BOARD AND CHURCH EXTENSION

To replace Mr. J. W. Dilmore ----- Rev. Chester Huckaby (1981)

To replace Rev. David Williford ---- Mr. Doyle Miller (1979)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

To replace Rev. C. A. Williams ----- Rev. C.A. Williams (1979)

FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING ----- Malone
SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING ----- Sneads
THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING ----- Traveler's Rest
ANNUAL MEETING ----- Damascus

Respectfully Submitted,
HOLLY GROVE
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE

In II Peter 1:6 we find that temperance (or self-control) is a christian virtue that we must obtain and practice.

We are also told in II Timothy 2:15 that we are to "study to show ourselves approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth".

In view of these two scriptures, we, as christians, should strive to promote temperance in every way of life. Let it be our way of living so that others may see Jesus in us. And in the end we can hear our MASTER say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant".

Respectfully Submitted,
CHRISTIAN HOME
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

TREASURER'S REPORT

RECEIVED:

October 3, 1975 -----	\$2043.89
January 3, 1976 -----	1968.17
April 3, 1976 -----	1962.44
July 3, 1976 -----	<u>2193.34</u>
Total -----	\$8167.84

PAID OUT:

10-3-75 Bro. Herbert Padgett, Moderator -----	\$	25.00
10-3-75 Lillian Rodgers, Clerk -----		50.00
10-6-75 Ernest Owen, State Treasurer:		
Co-Op Program -----	\$	997.57
Foreign Missions -----		97.50
Children's Home -----		89.50
Superannuation -----		87.50
College -----		87.50
Paynes -----		<u>327.30</u>
Total -----		1686.87
10-7-75 Sunny Hills Mission -----		217.02
10-22-75 Danny Williamson (State Del fees) -----		48.00
1- -76 Ernest Owen, State Treasurer:		
Co-Op Program -----		739.25
Foreign Mission -----		99.00
Children's Home -----		99.00
Superannuation -----		99.00
College -----		97.00
Paynes -----		<u>160.17</u>
Total -----		1291.42
1- -76 Houston Printing Co. (Minutes) -----		534.24
1- 9-76 Sunny Hills Mission -----		504.25
4- 3-76 Sunday School Dept. (Assoc. letters) --		17.33
4- 8-76 Ernest Owen, State Treasurer:		
Co-Op Program -----		997.86
Foreign Missions -----		100.25
Children's Home -----		100.25
Superannuation -----		100.25
College -----		98.25
Paynes Account -----		<u>145.94</u>
Total -----		1542.60
4- 8-76 Sunny Hills Mission -----		253.74
7- 9-76 Ernest Owen, State Treasurer:		
Co-Op Program -----		1114.40
Foreign Mission -----		99.25
Children's Home -----		101.25
Superannuation -----		102.25
College -----		99.25
Paynes Account -----		<u>320.34</u>
Total -----		1836.74
7- 9-76 Sunny Hills Mission -----		254.50
TOTAL PAID OUT -----		<u>\$8261.71</u>
9-28-76 Plaques for Ministers -----		100.00
		<u>\$8361.71</u>

Received -----	\$8167.84
Paid Out -----	<u>8361.71</u>
Difference -----	193.87
Brought Forward -----	399.27
Difference -----	<u>-193.87</u>
Carried Forward -----	\$ 205.40

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

Auxiliaries -----	Hickory Grove Church
Christian Education -----	Malone Church
Committee on Committees -----	Cottondale Church
Finance -----	Marvin Chapel Church
Nominations -----	Sneads Church
Obituary -----	Christian Home Church
Resolutions -----	Damascus Church
Stewardship -----	Holly Grove Church
Temperance -----	Salem Church

STEWARDSHIP

There is the real overflowing cup, that, through fidelity in the use of what we have, we may get the reward of being taken in as co-workers with God. Down the highway of life, together with The Lord we go; over the rough places He will help us; when the going is hard, He will encourage us; and when the burden is heavy, He will help us lift it, "For my yoke is easy and my burden is light," saith the Master. The requirement is that we shall, having received gifts differing according to our capacity, trade with them, cultivate them, encourage them, and thus increase them. "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." (I Peter 4:10). Let us therefore give our best in service to The Lord, and by so doing, we will receive the best rewards in return.

Respectfully submitted,
FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST
CHURCH OF SNEADS

REPORT ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

There is no better example of a person being educated to serve God than the example we find in Moses. Stephen said of him, "And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds". (Acts 7:22).

In the formative years of babyhood he was placed with those who loved him most, his own family. For the development of his character he was trained in the king's court. There he learned the ways and culture of the heads of state. When the time arrived for his formal education he was schooled in the most advanced institutions of learning in Egypt. From there he went to the wilderness and received on-the-job training in the school of hardship and experience.

Then the time came for him to answer the call of God and lead His people out of Egypt to establish their own nation. God had prepared him well for the task: and it was most assuredly the work of God.

The Christian Church should have a system of education that is second to none. We have the greatest task of any people on earth, so we need leaders who are learned in many things. We must by all means see that our people keep Christ our Saviour before them as they acquire and use this learning.

Respectfully submitted,
HICKORY GROVE CHURCH

COMMITTEE ON AUXILIARIES REPORT

The dictionary defines auxiliary as helping; aiding; assisting; aid of any kind. Our churches have different auxiliaries both local and associational. We urge each church member to realize the importance of his role in insuring the success of each auxiliary. Support may be given in many ways—prayer, attendance, financial and Christian witness, each of these ways are equally important.

We urge each church in the Association to recognize the importance in supporting not only its own auxiliaries and groups, but also those of the Association. This encouragement and support should not be left to the pastor, deacon board or any one person, but is the duty of each and every Christian.

Auxiliaries have great rewards within the church. Nothing can compare with the feelings of being included in warm Christian fellowship, and this fellowship is essential in the unity of the church. We should each make a prayerful effort to extend this love and fellowship through the works of our auxiliaries so that souls may be won to the Lord.

Respectfully submitted,
DAMASCUS F.W.B. CHURCH

ORDAINING COUNCIL'S REPORT

To the Salem Association of Free Will Baptist Churches while in session at Christian Home Church, Blountstown, Florida, on October 1, 2, 1976.

The Ordaining Council has rendered the following services during the past year:

For Pine Grove Church we ordained Brother Thomas Adams to the Gospel Ministry.

We also recommend to Cottdendale Church that they grant license to Brother John A. Meredith, Jr. to preach the gospel.

Rev. David Williford, having moved from our midst we recommend that the Association give him a letter of recommendation to the State Line Association of Alabama.

Since Rev. Chalres Powell has moved into our Association as Pastor of Holly Grove Church we recommend that he be received as a member of the Association.

Ordaining Council:
J. J. Scott
James C. Pelt
J. B. Lovering

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP'S REPORT

Men's Fellowship meets every 3rd Saturday night of each month. Mostly the attendance consists of Pastors and Deacons with the average attendance being about 30.

Last years project was the Evangelistic Crusade. Average attendance was about 250. We had seven people saved and about 100 rededications.

Men's Fellowship sponsors a 20 minute program on WTOT at 8:05 o'clock each Sunday morning.

New officers for the year are:

President ----- Howard Chafin
Vice President ----- Wilson Grant
Secretary-Treasurer ----- Mac Glass

Respectfully submitted,
Howard Chafin

REPORT OF SALEM YOUTH MEETING

President ----- Gene Gilbert
Vice President ----- Rusty Booth
Secretary-Treasurer ----- Debra Chafin
Advisor ----- Rev. Buford Pierce

We meet the first Saturday night of each month at 7:00 P.M. at different churches.

We realize the need to reach our youth today for the work tomorrow. We need your support. We urge each church to attend the Salem Youth Rallies and to be active in the meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Gene Gilbert

REPORT OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Whereas there was 1,000,000 abortions performed in the United States last year (1975). Whereas we have a public Abortion Clinic within seventy miles of our Association:

Be it resolved that we as a Association go on record as being Anti-Abortion.

Respectfully submitted,
MARVIN CHAPEL CHURCH

OBITUARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT

We the Obituary Committee, wish to make the following report: Since our last annual meeting we have had 12 members from our churches called home:

MARVIN CHAPEL CHURCH:

Since our last annual meeting the following Brothers and Sisters have been called home to be with the Lord:

Mrs. Carlie G. Day, Mrs. Lena Dolan, Mr. Herbert Young, Mrs. Laura Stewart.

CHRISTIAN HOME: Brother Ben Stone, Brother Frank Graham.

HICKORY GROVE: Sister Amanda Jane Williams.

MALONE: Sister Donnie Bush.

PINE GROVE: Sister Flora C. Barfield.

SALEM: Brother Leroy Shutes.

SNEADS: Sister Malvie Ditty.

SISTER MALVIE DITTY

On the 6th day of April, 1976, the Lord in his infinite wisdom, saw fit to take from our midst, Sister Malvie Ditty, a faithful member of our body. Although we shall miss the manifestation of her spiritual energy, we realize that our loss is Heaven's gain

Respectfully submitted,
First Free Will Baptist
Church of Sneads

MR. LEROY SHUTES

On August 30, 1976, our Heavenly Father called our brother Leroy Shutes unto Himself to dwell in a home not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens, where peace, joy, and happiness will be his reward. He was a faithful member of our church and devoted his life in working for his Master. He was hindered by age and health to do the things he wanted to do for the Lord, he lived alone, but he quoted many times how the Lord had blessed him and been with him during the hard road he had traveled. He loved the Lord with all his heart. The memory he left his loved ones is an inspiration for them to follow in his footsteps and live a noble life for the Master. We have suffered a great loss in his passing, but we bow reverently to the will of Him who doeth all things well. We pray God's richest blessings on loved ones and friends.

Salen Free Will Baptist Church

BEN STONE

"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life". Bro. Ben having fulfilled this requirement, laid down his earthly cares and departed this life March 22, 1976, to be with his Saviour in his heavenly home, a house not made with hands.

Truly a good man has passed to his reward, and left a heritage of a challenge to meet him in the great beyond.

Bro. Ben, as he was affectionately known, lived a life of services to his church, his friends, and his community. It can truly be said of him that he was a sincere good man, a faithful husband, a loving father, and a loyal, true and faithful friend. He fought a good fight and kept the faith. He was humble and without vanity, sincere, and without greed. He helped all who needed him in any way he could. Early in his youth, he married Jimmie Kearce. To this union were born one daughter and two sons.

Bro. Ben was a devoted husband, a loving father, and a loyal, faithful friend. His life was one of untiring service to his God and his fellowman.

His church, family, and friends cherish the influence of his life of faithful service and his kindness and loving manner will long be remembered.

The church, community, his family and host of friends will miss him, but we bow in humble submission to the will of the One who doeth all things well.

He leaves to mourn his loss: his widow, one daughter, one son, eight grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, one brother, one sister, and a host of loved ones.

The funeral was conducted at Christian Home Free Will Baptist Church by his pastor, Rev. James C. Pelt, near the spot where he was born and raised. This spot was dear to his heart. Burial followed in the family plot in Nettle Ridge Cemetery.

I cannot say and will not say, "He is dead"--"he is just away".

Somewhere beyond the sunset,
Where loveliness never dies
He dwells in the 'land of glory'
With a Saviour crucified."

FRANK GRAHAM

God in His infinite wisdom and mercy has seen fit to call Bro. Frank Graham to his eternal home.

On the morning of June 29th, 1976, he quietly slipped away to be with his Master. As he walked along life's pathway, he suddenly turned a bend in the road, and passed from our sight.

He gave his life to the Lord at an early age, and has been a faithful servant ever since. He served as a deacon of Christian Home Church for many years. He loved his church and was active in any movement for the betterment of the church and its undertakings.

His life was one of service to his family, his friends and to God and his church. He was a devoted husband, a loving father and a true friend.

He was married when quite a young man to Allie Mae Fowler and to this union was born three daughters and one son.

In his passing the church has lost one of its most faithful members, the community one of its most beloved citizens. His happy heart and cheery smile made him a blessing to everyone. He loved people and left his imprint deep in the hearts of those with whom he came in contact. He was ever ready to do more than his part for the church and community.

He will be greatly missed by his church, his family, his friends, and the entire community will feel the loss keenly, but we bow in humble submission to the One who doeth all things well, with humble gratitude in our hearts for the help and strength we have received from contact with his Christian character.

Survivors include his widow, three daughters, one son, twelve grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, two sisters, and one brother, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted at Christian Home Free Will Baptist Church by the pastor, Rev. James C. Pelt, and burial followed in the family plot at Clarksville Cemetery.

The memory he left his loved ones is an inspiration for them to follow in his footsteps and live a noble life for the Master.

"There's an open gate at the end of the road,
Thru which each must go alone
But there's a light we cannot see,
Our Father has claimed His own."

DONNIE MAY BUSH

God called from our midst, Mrs. Donnie Bush on February 23, 1976. She had served faithfully in different places of duty since she joined our church in 1953 until her health failed.

She has been greatly missed. She is survived by her husband, Howard.

Malone F.W.B. Church

SISTER CARLIE G. DAY

God in his infinite wisdom and mercy saw fit to call from our midst, our loved one, Sister Carlie G. Day, on September 27, 1975.

She was a faithful member of her church, attending regularly as long as health permitted. She served her church and association well, having served as a charter member and officer of the Salem Woman's Auxiliary.

She loved people and was ever ready to help the church and the people of the community, especially the sick and those in need.

She was a devoted Christian, a faithful wife, a good loving mother and a true friend. She will be greatly missed by her church and her family, but we bow in humble submission to the will of One who doeth all things well and know that our loss is Heaven's gain. Her memory leaves an inspiration for those who follow in her footsteps to live a noble life for the Master.

She is survived by her husband, Charles E. Day, one son, five daughters and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted at Marvin Chapel Free Will Baptist Church by Rev. J. B. Lovering and her pastor, Rev. Buford Pierce. Burial followed in Marvin Chapel Cemetery.

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE
SALEM ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
OF FLORIDA**

PREAMBLE

We, the believers in Christ according to the doctrine of the Free Will Baptist Denomination, having been baptized unto a like profession of faith in Jesus Christ and properly organized into churches, realizing the necessity of a bond of union and fellowship among us for preservation of the "Faith once Delivered Unto the Saints," and the spreading of the gospel of Christ upon earth, do therefore ordain and establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I - NAME

This organization shall be known as the Salem Association of Free Will Baptists of Florida.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of the organization shall be to unify the work of the churches composing this association by devising and executing such measures as will best spread the gospel of Christ as we interpret it.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Any regularly organized and well disciplined Free Will Baptist Church conforming to the usages of the Free Will Baptist denomination as set forth in the Treatise of the Faith and practices of the Free Will Baptists of the National Association, may upon proper application, and a vote of the association, become a member of this association.

ARTICLE IV - COMPOSITION

The sessions of this association shall consist of delegates appointed or elected by the churches of which this association is composed. All ordained ministers, and deacons who are members and in good standing with the association and the churches to which they belong, shall be standing delegates. Ministers from Sister Associations who are serving churches in this association shall have the right to make suggestions but the voting right shall be reserved for the delegates of the Salem Association. All officers of the Association will be standing delegates.

ARTICLE V - REPRESENTATION

Each church in this association shall be entitled to one delegate for every 25 members or fraction thereof.

ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

The officers of this association shall be a moderator, vice moderator, and clerk-treasurer, who shall be elected every two (2) years, on the odd year, except to fill vacancies.

The standing committees of this Association shall be: Executive, Finance, Obituary, Temperance, Stewardship, Auxiliaries, Resolutions and Nominations, who shall make annual reports to the Association. Other committees shall be appointed as the need may arise.

(1) The Executive Committee shall be composed of three (3) members, who shall be elected for three (3) year terms on a rotating basis, so that one new member shall be elected yearly.

The Moderator and Clerk of this Association shall act as standing members of this Committee.

(2) The Ordaining Council shall be composed of three (3) ministers of this association and shall be elected for three (3) year terms on a rotating basis, so that one new member shall be elected yearly.

No person shall hold more than one office in this association.

ARTICLE VII - BOARDS

The standing boards of this association shall be: Home Missions, Church Extension, and Christian Education.

(1) The Home Mission-Church Extension Board shall be composed of five (5) members.

(2) The Christian Education Board shall be composed of three (3) members. All standing board members shall be elected alternately for the number of years in accordance with the number of members composing their board, so that one new member might be elected yearly.

Other boards may be elected as the need may arise.

ARTICLE VIII - SESSIONS

The sessions of this Association shall be held quarterly. These sessions will convene on Saturday 10:00 A.M. before the first Sunday in each quarter with the exception of the fourth (4th) quarter. This fourth session in each year will meet on Friday night at 7:00 P.M. and Saturday before the first (1st) Sunday in October. This particular session shall be known as the annual session of the Association, and all annual letters, reports and matters affecting the year's work shall be received in this session.

ARTICLE IX - FINANCE

The general expense of the Association shall be provided by each church according to the number of delegates. Each church is asked to send five (\$5) dollars per delegate with a minimum of five (\$5) per church per quarterly meeting.

Each church is asked to send at least ten (10%) percent of its income to the Treasurer of the Salem Association quarterly for the Florida State Cooperative Program. All regular offerings will go into the general fund of the Salem Association.

The Moderator and Clerk shall each receive fifty (\$50) dollars annually for their services.

ARTICLE X - DISCIPLINE

This association shall have the power to discipline the Churches of which it is composed, and to withdraw fellowship from a church as a whole when it's action is inconsistent with the doctrine and usages of the Free Will Baptist Church, if labor with it is unsuccessful. But in no case can it reverse a decision of a church.

ARTICLE XI - MINISTERS

Section 1. The pastor of every church in the association should be a member of a church under his care.

Section 2. When a church desires that one of it's member be licensed or ordained to preach the gospel, it should request the association through its ordained Council to examine such member, and should agree to abide by the recommendation of the ordaining council.

Section 3. A minister of this association who is subject to discipline for doctrine or practices contrary to the Treatise of the Free Will Baptist denomination shall be brought to trial by the church of which he is a member. However, the ordaining council must sit in the church conference in an advisory capacity.

Section 4. Cards will be given at the annual session of this association to those ministers of good standing.

ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be altered or amended by a majority of the Association at any regular annual session, provided the suggested amendment is received by the Clerk in writing one day before the vote is taken.

BY-LAWS

1. Each session of this association shall be called to order by the Moderator and opened with prayer. Each session shall be closed with prayer.

2. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preserve order and submit all actions to the body. He shall have the same right of speech as any other member, but he must appoint someone else as Chairman while he speaks. He shall not have the right to vote except in the case of a tie.

(A) The Moderator shall be the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

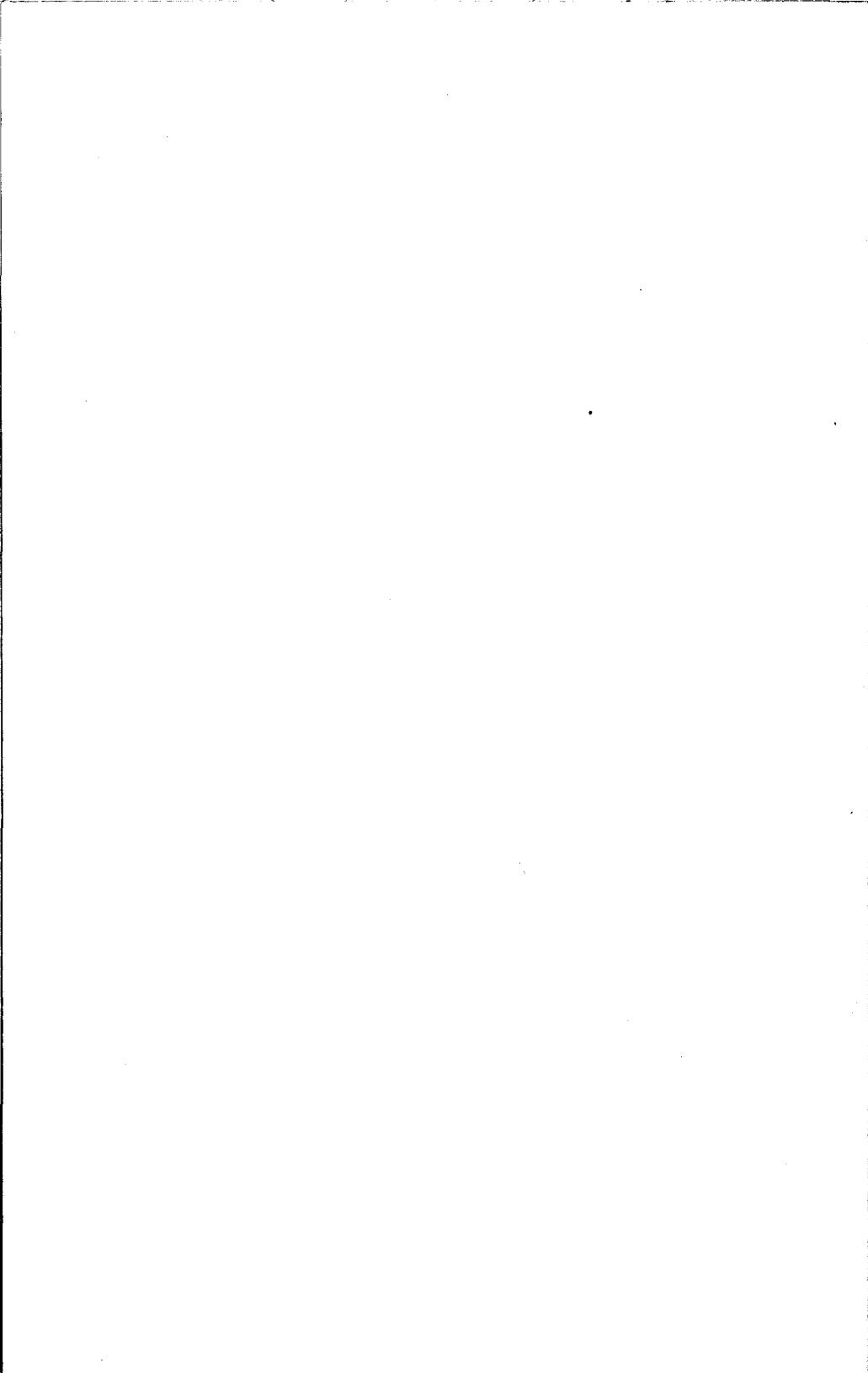
(B) He shall see that all the action taken by this body is carried out, unless otherwise delegated by the Association.

3. The Vice Moderator shall assume the duties, rights and privileges of the Moderator in his absence.

4. The delegates shall be enrolled by the Clerk before they are seated in this body.

5. All business shall be brought before the body by a move and second and shall be disposed of according to Parliamentary usage.

6. A member wishing to make a motion or to speak in conference shall first rise, address the moderator, and be recognized by him before proceeding. A member may second a motion without rising and addressing the Moderator.



FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING - - - - Malone Church
January 1, 1977

SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING - - - Sneads Church
April 2, 1977

THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING - - - - Traveler's Rest Church
July 2, 1977

ANNUAL MEETING - - - - - Damascus Church
Friday Night, September 30, 1977, 7:00 P.M.
Saturday, October 1, 1977 - 10:00 A.M.
