

The
Social Band Association
of
Free Will Baptists

1943

Proceedings of the
69th Annual Session

Convened at
Okean, Arkansas

MINUTES

SIXTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SOCIAL BAND ASSOCIATION

OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

HELD WITH
Okean Church, Okean, Arkansas

OFFICERS

Moderator	Eld. Ralph Staten	Pocahontas, Ark.
Ass't. Mod.	Eld. L. T. Smith	R.1, B. 471, Osceola, Ark.
Clerk	Eld. D. C. Jones	Portia, Ark.
Evangelist	Eld. D. C. Jones	Portia, Ark.

The next annual session of the association will convene with the Pirtle church, Peach Orchard, Clay County, Arkansas, beginning Thursday evening before the third Sunday in September 1944.

The introductory sermon will be delivered by the pastor of the church; in his absence, by the moderator or his calling on some one.

Free Will Baptist Gem, 211 Bond St., Monett, Missouri

A LETTER FORM TO BE USED AS A GUIDE FOR LOCAL CHURCH AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

To the Association of Free Will Baptists:
 We, the Church of Free Will Baptists met on
, 19....., and selected
 to represent us in your
 honorable body which convenes with
 church, on, 19..... Pidding you God's speed in
 all your labor for advancement of the cause of Christ and His
 Kingdom. Cur church is composed ofdeacons,....ministers,
 membership: males.....,females.....,total..... Members
 received during the year: baptism....., recommendation.....,
 by letter The churches' loss in membership: dismissed
 by letter, excluded....., died.....Name and ad-
 dress of ministers
 Names of deacons
 Sunday School, yes no, kind of literature used.....
, condition, average attendance
, total membership League: yes.....
 no....., president....., secretary
 total membership Families
 taking church paper Pastor
 sermons preached, salary \$..... Cwn church
 building, value of church property \$....., when
 organized, by who
 Moderator
 Clerk

PROCEEDINGS

The ministers, deacons, and messengers composing that part of the Church of God commonly known as Free Will Baptist met in its sixty-ninth annual session with the Okean church, Okean, Arkansas, September 16, 1943.

THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Opened by singing.

Prayer by Eld. Clarence Ussery.

Devotional by Eld. L. J. Smith.

Introductory sermon by Eld. Ralph Staten. Text, Acts 1:8. Theme, "How to get power for God, Church, and Association.

Benediction by Eld. G. W. Scott Jr.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened with singing.

Prayer by Eld. A. L. Campbell.

Scripture lesson, Acts 15:1-12.

Eld. D. C. Jones appointed clerk pro tem.

Welcome address by Eld. E. W. Tucker.

Response by Eld. Clarence Ussery.

Appointment of chairman of the several committees:

Obituary — Eld. A. L. Campbell.

Presbytery — D. C. Jones, R. S. Shilton, and W. C. Forsyth.

Sunday School and League — Eld. I. R. Gates.

Non-Represented Churches — Eld. L. J. Smith.

Statistical — Bro. W. S. White.

Petitionary — Eld. W. C. Laker.

Request — Eld. R. S. Shelton.

Enrollment — Eld. E. W. Tucker.

Divine — Elic Haynes.

Temperance — Eld. I. R. Gates, Eld. D. C. Jones, and Everett Teel.

Finance — Bro. Orville Cox.

Resolutions — Eld. J. J. Colbert.

Call for church letters. The following were present: Sugar Tree Grove, Grandview, Pocahontas, Pirtle, White Oak, Poplar Valley, Alice Brooks, Stony Point, Okean, Constant Chapel, Carson Lake, Pruett Chapel, and New Covenant.

Call for corresponding letters. 2 received:

Union — Eld. G. W. Scott Jr., Eld. Clarence Ussery, and Eld. W. W. Mishler.

Cave Springs — Eld. Billie Rogers, Eld. Dale Williams, and Bro. Ramond Williams.

The delegates received and seated in council.

Election of officers as follows: Moderator, Eld. Ralph Staten, Pocahontas, Ark.; Assistant Moderator, Eld. L. J. Smith, Osceola, Ark.; Clerk, Eld. D. C. Jones, Portia, Ark.

FRIDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Opened by singing.

Prayer by Eld. W. C. Lakey.

Sermon by Eld. L. J. Smith. Text Matt. 16:20.

Services continued by Eld. Billie Rogers.

Meeting closed with a good inspirational service.

Benediction by Eld. W. W. Mishler.

Adjourned to meet at 2 p.m.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened by singing.

Prayer by Eld. J. J. Colbert.

Report of committees.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON THREE O'CLOCK SERVICE

Sermon by Eld. Dale Williams. Text Heb. 4th chapter. Theme, "Come boldly to the throne of Grace."

Services continued by Eld. R. S. Shelton.

Prayer by Bro. Finis Johnson.

Benediction by Eld. Thurman Johnson.

The association was made sad by the serious illness of Eld. G. W. Scott Jr., who had to leave for home.

Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Opened at 8 o'clock by singing.

Prayer by Eld. Ralph Staten.

Devotional by Eld. E. W. Tucker.

Prayer by Ralph Owens and Eld. R. S. Shelton.

Short talk by Eld. J. J. Colbert.

Sermon by Eld. I. R. Gates. Text, Rev. 20:1-10.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened by singing.

Prayer by Eld. I. R. Gates.

Moderator read rules of order.

Call for tardy letters. 1 received, Rickey Chapel.

Motion carried that our old ministers names be placed on the minutes again.

Motion carried that we be represented in Cave Springs Association by letter and delegates Eld. E. W. Tucker, Eld. A. L. Campbell, Eld. I. R. Gates and wife.

Motion carried that we be represented in Union Association by letter and the clerk was instructed to insert any ones name later who could go.

Motion carried that we be represented in the State Association by letter and delegates, Sisters Floy Gates, Birdie Kirk, Mary Staten, and Bros. W. S. White and Veral Jones.

Motion carried we instruct the delegates to call for the next State Association, but should there be any one else call for it to with draw this request.

SATURDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Memorial Service

Opened by singing.

Prayer by Eld. Billie Rogers.

Message delivered by Eld. E. W. Tucker. Lesson, 1 Cor. 15:12-14, 18-58. Text Rev. 14:13.

Services continued by Eld. D. C. Jones.

Benediction by Eld. W. C. Lakey.

Adjourned until Saturday afternoon.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened by singing.

Prayer by Eld. J. J. Colbert.

Call for tardy letters. 1 received, New Bethel.

Motion carried that the church where the next Association meets prepare a young peoples program.

Eld. D. C. Jones was elected evangelist for next year.

Report of Home Missions.

Eld. R. S. Shelton was elected to preach the next memorial sermon.

Pirtle Church, Peach Orchard, Arkansas, was selected for the next association.

Presbytery was asked to investigate the character of Eld. E. E. Winfree and report at the next quarterly meeting.

Eld. L. J. Smith was selected to fill the place of Eld. W. C. Forsyth on the Presbytery for the present time.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON 3 O'CLOCK SERVICE

Opened by singing.

Prayer by Eld. L. J. Smith.

Message from John 4:24 and Psalm 133:1 delivered by Eld. A. L. Campbell. Theme, "Worship God in Spirit and in Truth."

Closed with good service.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Opened by singing.

Prayer by Bro. Jessie Larison.

Offering of \$102.00 received for Eld. W. C. Forsyth, who was ill.

Message delivered by Eld. Thurman Johnson using John 3:1-13 for the scripture. Theme, "New Birth."

Service continued by Eld. L. J. Smith.

Prayer by Eld. E. W. Tucker.

Closed with a good service.

Benediction by Eld. A. L. Campbell.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Opened by singing.

Prayer by Bro. E. L. Jones.

Young Peoples' League gave good program.

SUNDAY MORNING ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Opened by singing.

Ordination prayer by L. J. Smith for two deacons.

Message delivered by Eld. W. C. Lakey from James 4th chapter. Theme, "Them who did hinder."

Service continued by Eld. E. W. Tucker.

Closed with good, inspirational service.

Benediction by Bro. L. W. Hodge.

Motion carried we adjourn to meet with Pirtle Church, Peach Orchard, Arkansas, on Thursday night before the third Sunday in September 1944.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Opened by singing.

Prayer by Eld. Bennie Harding.

The moderator and assistant being absent the clerk was in charge.

Divine Service Committee reported Eld. D. C. Jones was to bring the message.

Eld. Jones used for his text John 14:6. Theme, "The Lord's Supper."

Several participated in the service that concluded another harmonious session.

Eld. Ralph Staten, Moderator.

Eld. D. C. Jones, Clerk.

MINISTER'S REPORTS

L. J. SMITH — Pastored 1 church, Carson Lake; preached 15 sermons; witnessed 9 conversions; baptized 8; received \$15.00; conducted 1 revival, at Dress, Ark.; received \$18.00; held several funerals; married 10 couples;; total pay \$33.00.

E. W. TUCKER — Pastored 1 church, Sugar Tree Grove; 19 sermons; received \$121.01; held 3 revivals, at Sugar Tree Grove, Pinie, Mo., preached 12 sermons, 6 conversions, received \$35.00, at Myrtle, Mo., 13 sermons, 11 conversions, received \$49.55, at Johnson Chapel, 9 sermons, received \$26.90; other places 15 sermons; received \$18.66; travelled 1865 miles; held 5 funerals; married 1 couple; received in all \$250.92.

THURMAN JOHNSON — Preached 70 sermons; witnessed 26 conversions; baptized 18; received \$90.21.

R. S. SHELTON — Pastored 3 churches; at Cash Hall, 30 sermons, travelled 526 miles, witnessed 14 conversions, baptized 7, received into fellowship 12, received \$165.45; at Alice Brooks, 19 sermons, travelled 230 miles, witnessed 14 conversions, baptized 7, received into fellowship 8, received \$68.61; at Rickey Chapel, 14 sermons, travelled 56 miles, received into fellowship 1, received \$15.35; preached 63 sermons; travelled 816 miles; witnessed 28 conversions; baptized 14; held 7 funerals; married 5 couples; received \$249.41.

c

W. C. LAKEY — Pastored 1 church; assisted in 3 revivals; witnessed 29 conversions; received into church fellowship 14; 11 funerals; married 15 couples; and preached at Whittaker, Fontaine, Walnut Corner and White Oak.

JESS LARISON — Held 1 revival; witnessed 4 conversions; received \$14.02.

A. L. CAMPBELL — Pastored 2 churches regular, Sutton and White Oak; preached 14 sermons at Sutton, received \$35.25; at White Oak preached 14 sermons, received \$63.18; at other places preached 78 sermons; received \$550.00; witnessed 41 conversions; total sermons preached 106; total amount received \$648.43.

RALPH STATEN — Served as pastor of 3 churches, namely: Pocahontas, half time; Odean and Grandview; at Pocahontas preached 47 sermons (including revival), received \$175.00, 6 conversions, baptized 5; at Okean, preached 52 sermons (including revival), received \$152.50, witnessed 3 conversions, baptized 3; at Grandview, preached 8 sermons, received \$24.55; 6 other revivals: at Mt. Grove, Mo., preached 14 sermons, witnessed 6 conversions, received \$72.05; at Hancock school house No. 1, 4 sermons, 1 conversion, received \$6.50; at Warm Springs, 6 sermons, 8 conversions, received \$6.80; Toccopola, Miss., 10 sermons, 16 conversions, 3 transfers of membership, received \$48.00; Gauley, Miss., 9 sermons, received \$36.00; Mountain Home, 5 sermons, received \$53.00; 30 radio talks; 13 sermons other places; 12 funerals; 1 wedding; Edited The Free Will Baptist Landmark; total sermons 201; total receipts \$577.65.

W. C. FCRSYTH — Pastored New Harmony part time, Pleasant View Church regular, once a month at Alice Brooks Church, part time at Johnson school house; 1 conversion; baptized 25; total sermons 84; received \$286.67.

D. C. JONES — Preached at 16 different places; 85 sermons; travelled 1831 miles; 14 conversions; assisted in bringing in one church; 6 funerals; 3 weddings; 3 revivals: at Evening Star, 13 sermons, received \$27.50, at Poplar Valley, 16 sermons, 3 conversions, received \$24.42, at Carson Lake, 18 sermons, 9 conversions, received \$64.63; other places, 38 sermons; 2 conversions; received \$216.73; received as evangelist \$105.24.

J. J. CALBERT — Have not done much the past 3 years but

have not forgot God and would like my name be placed back on the minutes of the Association.

IRA GATES — Pastored 2 churches; at Hopedell half time, 82 sermons, baptized 1, received into fellowship 11, received \$192.45; at Pirtle, 70 sermons, baptized 1 received into fellowship 1, received \$105.06; at other places, 20 sermons, received \$52.50, 2 funerals, 2 marriages; total 172 sermons; total receipts \$349.90.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ABSENT CHURCHES — We, your Committee on Absent Churches, submit the following report:

We have found by investigation the following churches failed to report by letter or delegation: New Harmony, Bryant Chapel, Warm Springs, New Hope, Clear Lake, Hopewell, and Skaggs.

Of absent ministers: W. F. Vickery, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma; W. C. Forsyth, Hoxie, Arkansas very ill; R. F. Forrester, Walnut Ridge, Arkansas; W. T. Shoffit, Deleplaine, Arkansas; Charles Staten, Pocahontas, Arkansas, attending school; G. W. Million, Pocahontas, Arkansas; Geo. W. Weeks, Hoxie, Arkansas; C. L. Kildow, Hoxie, Arkansas; Henry Pauley, Beech Grove, in the Army.

Floy Gates
Committee Inez Campbell
L. J. Smith

TEMPERANCE — We, your Committee on Temperance, submit the following report:

Realizing since the repeal of the eighteenth amendment, that the Devil is putting up a strong fight with intoxicating drinks to seduce Christians, we urge all Christians to stand for temperance. We urge our pastors and lay members to abstain from places that endorse the liquor traffic by selling intoxicating beverages. We urge all to use their influence and votes to subdue the enemy of our morale standards.

Ira Gates
Committee D. C. Jones
Everett Teel

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND LEAGUE — We, the Sunday School and League Committee, give the following report:

We find in all the churches represented thirteen Sunday

schools and one League; all Sunday schools in fair condition using Free Will Baptist literature. We recommend that the churches put forth more effort organizing more Leagues for the advancement of the cause of Christ.

Elois Smith
Committee Nina Bennett
I. R. Gates

OBITUARY—We, the Obituary Committee, find that our kind Father in heaven has seen fit to call from our midst the following: Bro. C. C. Crosson, Bro. John Gates, Bro. John Karsinger, Sister Lillie Buckhanan, Bro. Buck Buckhanan, Bro. Joe Branson, and Sister Frankie Pride.

A. L. Campbell
Committee Mary Wheeler
Flo Fowler

RESOLUTIONS—Be it Resolved, That all ministers give a definite answer at the association on Saturday morning as to what churches they are going to accept as pastoral care for the ensuing year.

Committee J. J. Colbert
W. C. Lakey

RESOLUTION OF THANKS—

We, the Resolution Committee, extend to the Okean church and community our sincere thanks and appreciation for the hospitality and kindness they manifested during our stay with them. We bid them God's speed in their labor for cause of Christ and His kingdom.

Committee J. J. Colbert
W. C. Lakey

HOME MISSION BOARD—We, the Home Mission Board, submit the following report:

For the first quarter we received from the following churches: Pocahontas, \$19.44; Okean, \$11.45; Hopewell, \$10.00; Pirtle, \$4.12. Total \$45.01.

For the second quarter we received: Pocahontas, \$10.94; Okean, \$9.00; Grandview, \$5.00; Pirtle, \$1.07. Total \$26.01.

Paid \$13.00 to Bro. D. C. Jones, evangelist.

Amount left in treasury \$13.01.

We recommend that the sum of \$45.01, balance of first quarter,

be divided as follows: \$5.00 for local minutes; \$10.00 for Bro. W. C. Forsyth; and the remainder of \$30.01 be placed in the treasury.

Balance to date of September 18 is \$43.01.

R. S. Shelton
Members of Board Ralph Staten
D. C. Jones
I. R. Gates, sec.-treas.

FINANCE — We, your Committee on Finance, submit the following report:

	Local Minutes	State Minutes	Clerk Hire
Sugar Tree Grove	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$.50
Grandview	2.00	1.00	.50
Focahontas	2.00	1.00	.50
Pirtle	2.10	2.00	.50
White Oak	2.00		.50
Poplar Valley	2.00	2.00	.50
Alice Brooks	2.00	1.00	1.00
Stony Point	2.00	1.00	.50
Okean	2.00	1.00	.50
Constant Chapel	2.00	1.00	.50
Pruett Chapel	2.00	1.00	.50
New Covenant	2.00	1.00	.50
Carson Lake	2.00	1.00	.50
Rickey Chapel	2.00		1.50
New Bethel	2.00	1.00	.50
Home Mission Fund	5.00		
	<hr/> \$35.10	<hr/> \$15.00	<hr/> \$9.00

Note — Stony Point gave \$.50 and Carson Lake gave \$3.00 for the tent fund.

Orville Cop
Committee W. S. Knight
D. C. Jones

MINISTER'S ENROLLMENT

D. C. Jones Portia, Arkansas
Ira Gates Peach Orchard, Arkansas
E. W. Tucker Peach Orchard, Arkansas
W. F. Vickery Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

W. C. Forsyth	Hoxie, Arkansas
R. S. Shelton	Okean, Arkansas
Ralph Staten	Pocahontas, Arkansas
B. F. Forrester	Walnut Ridge, Arkansas
W. T. Shoffitt	Deleplaine, Arkansas
Charles Staten	Pocahontas, Arkansas
G. W. Million	Pocahontas, Arkansas
Thurman Johnson	Success, Arkansas
A. L. Campbell	Pocahontas, Arkansas
J. J. Colbert	Unknown
Geo. V. Weeks	Hoxie, Arkansas
C. M. Kildow	Hoxie, Arkansas
Henry Pauley	Beech Grove, Arkansas
L. J. Smith	R. No. 3, Box 471, Oceola, Arkansas
W. C. Lakey	Sedgwick, Arkansas

DEACON'S ENROLLMENT

Alice Brooks -- Marvin Riggs and I. C. Staten.
 New Harmony -- E. W. Cox and W. H. Clay.
 Grandview -- H. C. Jolly and E. L. Jones.
 Warm Springs -- J. C. King.
 Rickey Chapel -- E. Swift, H. Martin, and Henry Russel.
 Pirtle -- Wiley Ricker Irvin Clark, and Carl High.
 Pruett Chapel -- G. W. Dale and Orville Cox.
 Okean -- J. O. Martin.
 Hopewell -- C. F. Jones and Ambrose Cavener.
 Mcran -- D. W. McNutt, C. M. Holder and Elvin McGhee.
 New Bethel -- Ben Seamon and Hiram White.
 New Hope -- Horace Bates.
 Stony Point -- Dan Kirk and A. G. Pendegrass.
 Pleasant View -- Sular Camp.
 White Oak -- Will Manus, Tom Bennett, and J. D. McKinney.
 Pocahontas -- Will S. White and Luther Crays.
 Constant Chapel -- Hire Mitchell and Horace Penny.
 Poplar Valley -- W. S. Knight.

DELEGATES TO THE ASSOCIATION

Pirtle -- Sisters Floy Gates, Nannie Moler, and Virginia Gates.
 Constant Chapel -- Beulah Allen.
 Alice Brooks -- Inez Campbell, Ula Reed, and Geraldine Haynes.
 Stony Point -- Letter.

White Oak — Pearl Bennett.

Pruett Chapel — Edward Bibb and Alma Price.

Carson Lake — Elois Smith.

Pocahontas — Letter.

Grandview — Vernell Duff, C. R. Crawford, and Ila Fowler.

Poplar Valley — W. S. Knight and L. W. Hodge.

Sugar Tree Grove — Manda Wheeler.

Okean — Elic Haynes, H. Rickey, and Lillie Shelton.

New Covenant — Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Holland.

Rickey Chapel — Jessie Larison and Sister Larison.

New Bethel — Letter.

CONSTITUTION

1. This Association, when properly organized, shall consist of a moderator and a clerk, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present. The duty of the moderator shall be to keep the Association in order, state questions fairly and take the vote thereon; to have the liberty of speech as other members, providing his seat to be filled; to have no vote unless the Association be equally divided, in which case he shall have the deciding vote. The duty of the clerk shall be to keep a fair record of the proceedings of the Association.

2. The Association shall be composed of ordained ministers, deacons, and licentiates, together with the messengers duly chosen by the several churches in our union and sent to represent them in this Association, said messengers being members of some church within this Association, whom the members judge best qualified for the purpose, who, on producing letters certifying to their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

3. In the letters from the several churches shall be expressed their respective number of members in fellowship, and the number received, dismissed, excluded or died since the last sitting of the Association, and day of church meeting.

4. No query shall be received by the Association from any church unless it has been acted on in said church and cannot be settled, in which case the Association shall take up same and act upon it.

5. Every church in the Association shall be entitled to a representation of messengers not exceeding three.

6. Every motion made and seconded shall be acted upon unless withdrawn by the mover.

7. The Association shall not have the power to lord it over

God's heritage so as to infringe on any of the internal rights of the churches; nevertheless, we agree that the churches composing the Association shall stand in the same relationship to each other in this Association that individuals do to each other in the church; that is to say, if a church trespass against a sister church the church injured shall try to reclaim them by Gospel steps; if they cannot be reclaimed, they shall be dropped from our union.

8. We agree to do all business by a majority of all the members present.

9. Any church may be admitted into this Association by letter and messengers. If upon examination it is found to be orthodox and orderly, such admission shall be manifested by the moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to the messengers thereof.

10. This Association shall have power to sit as an advisory council, to give churches all necessary advice in matters of difficulty; to inquire into the cause why churches neglect to represent themselves in this Association; to appoint any members, by and with his or her consent to transact any business they may deem necessary; to invite brethren in the ministry to a seat with the Association; to adjourn the Association at any time and place that may be thought necessary; to exclude from his seat any member who does not conform to the Rules of Decorum, and shall report his or their conduct to the churches from which he or they were messengers.

11. The Association possesses appellate jurisdiction in all cases of difficulty that may arise in the churches.

12. The Lord's Supper shall be administered at each annual session of the Association.

13. Each Annual Association shall be held on the third Sunday in August.

RULES OF ORDER

1. At every sitting of the Association, business shall be opened and concluded with a prayer.

2. Those who speak shall rise, address the Moderator, and personal reflections shall be avoided.

3. 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.

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

5. Motions made and lost shall not be recorded on the Minutes, unless so ordered at the time.

6. No one shall speak more than once on the same subject without special leave from the body.

7. All questions shall be decided by a majority of the members present.

8. No member shall absent himself without leave of the Moderator.

9. Arrangements shall be made so as to insure two sermons or other devotional exercises equivalent thereto in addition to the business session each day, and the Moderator announce at the adjournment of each business session who is to have charge of said service.

10. Alterations may be made in these rules at any regular meetings of the Association.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. GOD. We believe in one true and living, Triune God; composed of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, equal in divine Essence, Purpose, Power and Glory.—St. John 1:1; 1 Cor. 8:6; St. John 10:30.

2. CHRIST. We believe that Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God. Was with the Father and the Holy Spirit at the time of the Creation, left the Courts of Heaven and came to this earth. Took upon Himself the form of humanity, sin excepted, by being born of the Virgin Mary, manifested His power, was crucified, placed in Joseph's tomb, rose from the dead the third day, completed the great plan of salvation, walked and talked with His disciples, publicly ascended up to Heaven, and that He will descend again to gather His jewels home.—Isaiah 9:6; St. John 1:14; Luke 1:26-28; Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 16:9-19; Luke 24:50:53; Acts 1:9-12; Mark 15:22-47.

3. HOLY SPIRIT. We believe that the Holy Spirit has visited true believers in all ages, and especially since the ascension of the SON back to the Father, and His coming on the day of Pentecost. Has taken up His office work among all nations of people, as a Divine Reprover, Comforter and Guide.—Judges 6:34; 11:29; St. John 16:8-14; Isaiah 63:10-12; Ephesians 4:30; Acts 8:17-20; Ezek. 36:27; Joel 2:28.

4. THE BIBLE. We believe the Bible, which is composed of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, was given by Inspiration of God, is our way-bill from earth to heaven, and

the only infallible rule of faith and practice.—2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; Daniel 10:21; Acts 1:16-17; Matt. 21:42.

5. THE FALL OF MAN. We believe that GOD created man good, gave him a just law by which he should be governed; with promise of reward for faithfulness and with penalties of punishment for disobedience. Gave man power of free moral agency to choose the right and reject the wrong. But our first parents heeded the voice of the great enemy of souls, voluntarily transgressed the law of GOD, fell, with their posterity, under the just penalty of the same, and were unable of their own power to extricate or save themselves from the great dilemma into which they had fallen. God gave them the hope of salvation through the coming CHRIST.—Gen. 1:27; 2:16-17, Psalms 51:5, Gen. 3; Gen. 6:5; Rom. 5:12-19; John 3:6; Eph. 2:3.

6. REDEMPTION, SALVATION, ADOPTION. We believe that Jesus Christ by His birth, death, burial, resurrection and ascension paid the purchase price for the redemption of the whole human race, arranged a pardon for all who come upon Gospel terms; and a law of adoption into the Kingdom of Heaven, and an eternal inheritance into the glorified Kingdom above.—Heb. 9:12; Gal. 3:13; 4:4-5; Titus 2:14; Heb. 1:4; St. John 3:16; Isaiah 15:22.

7. CONDITIONS OF SALVATION. We believe that all persons, dying in infancy and all idiots are saved by the atoning merits of the Son of God without any act on their part; that persons coming to the years of accountability, transgressing the law of God, must upon their part, exercise faith in Jesus Christ through repentance toward God, at the completion of which pardon takes place in the mind of the Father and by the Holy Spirit they pass through the ordeal of regeneration, are washed in the blood of the Lamb and are planted in the Kingdom of Christ.—John 3rd chapter; Matt. 19:13-22; I Cor. 7:10; Luke 18:16-17; St. John 4:11-16; Psalms 98:3.

8. SALVATION FREE. We believe that God desires the salvation of all; Christ died for all; the Gospel invites all; the Holy Spirit strives with all; and whosoever will may come and be saved upon the terms of the Gospel.—1 Peter 1:9-25; 2:9-25; Revelation 22:17.

9. BAPTISM. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of believers in water, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, in which are represented the burial and resurrection of Christ; also represents our death to sin, and only those who have come under the presbytery of the elders are qualified to administer the same.—Matt. 3:14-16; 3:5-6; 1 Peter 3:21; St. John 3:23; Acts 10:47; Matt. 28:19.

10. COMMUNION AND FEET WASHING. We believe that the Lord's Supper and the washing of the saints' feet are ordinances of the Gospel of Christ; the Lord's Supper was instituted by our Savior to commemorate His broken body and shed blood for the sins of the world, and to show our remembrance of Him till He comes. - All Christians have a right to the Lord's Supper

and should be invited; "Let a man examine himself and so let him eat."

The washing of feet was instituted by our Lord at the same time that the Supper was instituted as an act of humility to show our love for each other, and both ordinances should be perpetuated by all Christians until His second coming.—Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:20-29; St. John 13:1-17; Matt. 26:26-29.

11. THE SABBATH. We believe that the Christian Sabbath should be observed as a day of rest and for the worship of God; that we should abstain from all sinful amusements and secular employments, works of mercy and piety excepted.—Exodus 20:11; 31:12-18; Deut. 5:12-15; Ezek. 20:12; Matt. 28:1; Luke 23:56; Acts 13:42-48; Mark 2:27.

12. CALL TO THE MINISTRY. We believe in a divine call of the ministry; that God in His goodness and power of grace, impresses His ministers with the burden of lost souls, to the extent that the call becomes irresistible with personal contentment; that when they yield to the call and exercise the native gifts according to the Scriptures, with a full reliance upon Him. He accompanies them in the person of the Holy Spirit to guide them in the way of truth and to bless their labors according to His purpose.—Jonah 1:1; Jer. 1:5; Mark 3:14; Acts 1:22-26; Matt. 28:19.

13. THE INVISIBLE CHURCH. We believe that the Invisible or Spiritual Church is the redeemed in the aggregate, is the family of God, is composed of all true Christians of every congregation from righteous Abel to the restitution of all things, from every kindred, nation, tongue and people.—Eph. 3:16-21; Heb. 12:22-23; 1 Pet. 2:5; Eph. 2:20-22; Acts 2:47; Matt. 16:18.

14. THE VISIBLE CHURCH. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men and women, having obtained fellowship with the Lord and with each other, agreeing to keep up a good discipline and doctrine according to the rules of the Gospel.—2 Thess. 1:1; Acts 16:5; 3 John 1:10; Matt. 18:17; Acts 20:28; Revelation 1:4-20.

15. PERSEVERANCE. We believe that all true believers in Christ should persevere in divine grace, and in the knowledge of the truth, and that God's grace is sufficient to help them to overcome all the obstacles of life, and that all the combined forces of the great enemy of souls on earth and in hell (or in his eternal abode) are not able to pluck them from His hand so long as they walk in the path of duty; but those who sidestep and wilfully refuse or neglect to perform their duty, they would backslide if persistently continued, would be eternally lost.—2 Pet. 1:12; 2 Cor 9:10; 2 Peter 1:4-8; 2 Peter 2:2; Rom. 8:35-39. Apostasy: 2 Peter 1:8-9; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 12:15-17; 1 John 5:16; Heb. 6:1-6; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; Heb. 3:12; St. John 15:1-7; Matt. 12:31-32.

16. CHRIST THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH. We believe that Christ is the Head of the Church, and that the government of the local church is with the body.—Col. 1:18-19; Matt. 16:

18; Heb. 12:23; Matt. 21:42; Eph. 1:22; Acts 16:4-5.

17. **SANCTIFICATION.** Sanctification is a work of God's grace, by which the soul is cleansed from all sin and wholly consecrated to Christ. It takes place in regeneration, and the Christian can and should abide in this state to the end of life, constantly growing in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.—I Cor. 6:11; 2 Thess. 2:13; Heb. 12:14; Phil. 3:21; 2 Thess. 5:19-23; St. John 17:17-19; 2 Tim. 2:20-21.

18. **THE RESURRECTION.** We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both of the righteous and the wicked. When the resurrection shall take place, the soul and body shall be united, the righteous shall be received into everlasting happiness to reign with God for ever; but the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment.—Matt. 28:6; John 5:28-29; I Cor. 15:51-58.

19. **THE SOUL.** The soul is endless, hence does not die with the body, but immediately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery, according to the spiritual character here possessed.—Phil. 1:23; Luke 23:43; Rev. 6:9; Luke 16:19-25; Matt. 10:28.

20. **JUDGEMENT.** We believe that there will be a general universal judgment, when all men shall be judged according to their works, whether they be good or bad, and that immediately thereafter the wicked shall enter into everlasting punishment, and the righteous into eternal happiness.—2 Thess. 1:4-9; Rev. 14:9-13; Luke 16:23; Rev. 21:8; 2 Cor. 5:10; Matt. 12:36-37; Rev. 20:12-13; Acts 17:31.

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant. We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid the appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world; from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit," in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls, and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK	Received Into Fellowship	Dismissed	Excluded	Died	Number of Ministers	Sunday Schools	Leagues	Taking Church Paper	Members
Sugar Tree Grove	E. W. Tucker	W. P. Wheeler .....	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	58
Pocahontas	Ralph Staten	Ambrose Million	6	...	...	...	2	1	1	1	90
Carson Lake	L. J. Smith	Hazel Smith	9	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	30
Pruett Chapel	Thurman Johnson	Lillie Dennis	17	2	...	...	3	...	...	4	52
White Oak	W. C. Lakey	Grace Bennett .....	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	43
Stony Point	Ira Gates	Robert Counts .....	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Alice Brooks	Ira Gates	Poter Hucklebee	12	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...
Constant Chapel	Thurman Johnson	Francis Watson	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	21
Pirtle	Ralph Staten	Carl High .....	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	11	102
Grand View	Ralph Staten	Esta Fowler	9	1	...	3	...	1	...	...	86
New Covenant	Charles Staten	J. T. Holland	9	...	...	...	...	1	...	5	82
Okean	Ralph Staten	Naomi Denton	1	...	3	...	2	1	...	8	37
Poplar Valley	L. J. Smith	Marie Holland .....	...	...	1	2	1	1	...	...	69
Rickey Chapel	R. S. Shelton	Wanda Bonds .....	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	46
New Bethel	Henry Obarts	Ethel Brown	71	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	45
			136	4	8	6	17	13	1	30	761