

The
Social Band Association
of
Free Will Baptists

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Proceedings of the
70th Annual Session

Convened at
Pirtle Church, Peach Orchard, Ark.

MINUTES
SEVENTIETH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
SOCIAL BAND ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

HELD WITH
PIRTLE CHURCH
Peach Orchard, Arkansas

OFFICERS

Moderator, Eld. Ralph Staten ----- O'Kean, Arkansas
Clerk, Eld. I. R. Gates ----- Peach Orchard, Ark.
Evangelist, Eld. D. C. Jones ----- Pocahontas, Arkansas

The next annual session of the Association will convene with the Alice Brooks Church, Pocahontas, Arkansas, in the Sharum community, Randolph County, Arkansas, beginning Thursday evening before the third Sunday in September, 1945.

The introductory sermon will be preached by the pastor of the church. In his absence, by the Moderator or his calling on someone.

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____. Bidding you God's speed in
all your labor for advancement of the cause of Christ and His
Kingdom. Our church is composed of _____deacons, _____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 address
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 \$_____. Own church
building_____, value of church property \$_____, when
organized_____, by who_____

Moderator _____

Clerk _____

PROCEEDINGS

Ministers, Deacons and Messengers composing that part of the Church of God commonly known as the Free Will Baptists, met in its seventieth annual session with the Pirtle Church, Peach Orchard, Arkansas, Sept. 14, 1944.

THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICES

Opened by singing conducted by Eld. N. P. Gates and Eld. Ralph Staten.

Prayer by Eld. George W. Scott, Jr.

Devotional by Eld. W. W. Mishler.

Prayer by Eld. E. W. Tucker.

Sermon by Eld. R. S. Shelton. Text, Matt. 20:1.

Closed with a good service.

Adjourned to meet Friday morning at nine-thirty.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened by singing directed by Eld. N. P. Gates.

Prayer by Eld. W. C. Lakey.

Scripture lesson: Acts 15th chapter.

Welcome address by Eld. I. R. Gates; response by Eld. N. P. Gates:

Appointment of Committees

Obituary—R. S. Shelton, Elias Smith, Hiram Smith.

Statistical—Orvil Cox, D. C. Jones, Olive Murrah.

Petitionary—W. C. Lakey, Sister Marlin Cup, Sister Hazelwood.

Sunday School and League—I. R. Gates, Naomi Denton, Ila Fowler.

Request—Eld. E. W. Tucker, Lizzie Garet, Rosa Martin.

Divine—Thurman Hobbs, Grace Bennett, Sister Cox.

Temperance—L. J. Smith, G. W. Scott, Jr.

Finance—D. C. Jones, H. R. Fowler, I. C. Staten.

Resolutions—E. W. Tucker, W. C. Lakey, Carl High.

Call for different church representatives and letters. The following were present: White Oak, Pruet Chapel, Carson Lake, Grandview, Alice Brooks, New Bethel, Pirtle, Rickey Chapel, O'Kean and Sugar Tree Grove.

The letters were read and the delegates seated in full council. Eld. George W. Scott, Jr., and W. M. Mishler of Union Association of Missouri; Eld. N. P. Gates of Wolverine Association of Michigan, and Rudolph Davis of Powhatan were seated as advisory council.

FRIDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Eld. G. W. Scott and Rudolph Davis brought the message, reading Heb. 12:1-6. Theme: Overcoming Life.

Services closed with a great spiritual feast.

Dismissed for noon by Eld. N. P. Gates.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Opened with singing conducted by Eld. N. P. Gates.

Prayer by Eld. L. J. Smith.

Election of officers for the ensuing year as follows:

Eld. Ralph Staten, Moderator; I. R. Gates, Clerk.

Song directed by N. P. Gates.

Prayer by Carl High.

Message delivered by Eld. W. M. Mishler; lesson, Psalms 126.

Motion and second to adjourn.

Dismissed by Bro. L. W. Hodge.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Opened by singing, led by N. P. Gates.

Prayer by Eld. D. C. Jones.

Devotional conducted by Eld. R. S. Shelton.

Message delivered by Eld. L. J. Smith; lesson, Psalms 57th chapter; text, Psalms 57-7.

Dismissed by Bro. Percy Wheeler.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened by singing conducted by Bro. Carl High.

Scripture lesson by Moderator, 2 The., 3rd chapter.

Call for tardy letters, three received.

Motion and second to receive and seat the delegates. They were: New Covenant, Pocahontas and Poplar Valley.

Report of Evangelist. Report received as read.

Report of ministers.

Committee reports.

Motion and second that we be represented in the Union Association of Missouri. Delegates elected: Ralph Staten, D. C. Jones and L. J. Smith.

Motion and second that we be represented in Cave Spring Association of Missouri. Delegates elected were Percy Wheeler, E. W. Tucker and Sister G. W. Hopper.

Motion and second to be represented in the Wolverine Association. Delegates: R. S. Shelton, Charles Staten and I. R. Gates.

Motion and second to be represented in State Association. Delegates: Sister White, Grace Bennett and Naomi Denton.

L. W. Hodge and Sister Ira Gates.

Intermission.

Come together by singing led by Eld. Ralph Staten and Eld. N. P. Gates.

Report of Obituaries read and received. See report of committee.

Report of Presbytery read and received that Bro. Carl High and Bro. L. W. Hodge be granted license to the ministry for one year. After a desirous prayer in behalf of the two brethren, Eld. R. S. Shelton preached the memorial sermon from Rev. 7th chapter.

Motion and second that we adjourn until 1:45.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

Met at 2 o'clock.

Song service directed by Eld. N. P. Gates.

Call for tardy letters; none received.

Report on Home Mission received as read. See report.

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

Eld. W. C. Lakey was elected to preach the memorial sermon at the next Association, to be held at the Alice Brooks church.

Motion and second that we withdraw and authorize the clerk to write and call in the credentials of A. L. Campbell. The charge were for following after foreign doctrine.

The Alice Brooks church was chosen as the next place for the Association, located at Sharum, about 8 miles out of Pocahontas, Arkansas.

Motion and second to adjourn to meet with the Alice Brooks church Thursday night, September 13, 1945.

SATURDAY NIGHT SESSION

Opened by singing conducted by N. P. Gates and Carl High.

Prayer by Bro. Howard Martin.

Devotional conducted by Eld. Carl High, after which a session of prayer was entered into in behalf of the boys in the armed services. Eld. Wayne Tucker led the prayer.

Message delivered by Eld. N. P. Gates. The subject was: "Adam, Where Art Thou?" A great message was delivered and all enjoyed a feast from heaven.

Dismissed by Eld. Carl High.

SUNDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened with singing conducted by N. P. Gates and Carl High.

Prayer by Eld. N. P. Gates.

Message delivered. Lesson: Rev. 3:6-8; Exd. 14:13-17. Subject: "An Open Door, Go Forward."

Services closed with a good spiritual old-fashioned handshake.

After the handshake there was a collection taken of \$56.90 and given to Eld. D. C. Jones for his faithfulness to the Association.

Dismissed by Bro. I. C. Staten.

EVANGELIST'S REPORT

Traveled 746 miles; preached 60 sermons; held 2 revivals; witnessed 9 conversions; conducted 4 funerals; performed 3 marriage ceremonies.

Received for services: Carson Lake, \$62.50; Grandview, \$38.25; other places, \$80.37. Total \$181.14.

Evangelist Pruitt Chapel, \$12.00; Grandview, \$12.00; Home Mission, \$41.18; Alice Brooks, \$5.00; A. C. Pendergrass, \$1.00. Total, \$71.18.

\$33.78 should belong to next evangelist.

—D. C. Jones.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

OBITUARY—We, your Committee on Obituaries, find that our Heavenly Father saw fit in His infinite wisdom to call from our number the following: From Pirtle church, Bro. John Morgan; Pruitt, Della Briant; Sugar Tree Grove, Bro. S. T. Burch and Robert Ponds; O'Kean, Rev. W. C. Forsyth; Pocahontas, Sister Georgie Million.

We, your committee, offer the bereaved ones our deepest heartfelt sympathy.

Elois Smith,
Bro. R. S. Shelton,
Bro. Harmon Smith.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND LEAGUE—We find that 12 churches have reported having Sunday Schools and two churches having a League. All the churches that reported having Sunday schools were using Free Will Baptist literature except one.

We recommend that in selecting teachers for the different classes that Christians be selected as far as possible, and parents urged to be faithful in attendance, setting the right example before their children.

F. R. Gates, Chairman,
Naomi Denton,
Ila Fowler.

RESOLUTIONS—We, the Resolutions Committee, extend to the Pirtle church and community our sincere thanks and appreciation for the hospitality and kindness they manifested during our stay with them. We bid them God speed in their labors for the cause of Christ and His Kingdom.

W. C. Lakey,
Wayne Tucker.

FINANCE REPORT

	Local	State	Clerk
Ricky Chapel -----	\$2.00-----	\$1.50-----	\$.50
Pirtle -----	2.00-----	1.00-----	.50
Pruett -----	4.00-----	1.00-----	.50
White Oak -----	2.00-----	1.00-----	.50
New Bethel -----	2.50-----	1.00-----	.50
Grandview -----	2.00-----	1.00-----	.50
Carson Lake -----	3.00-----	1.00-----	.50
O'Kean -----	3.30-----	2.00-----	.50
Alice Brooks -----	2.00-----	1.00-----	.50
Sugar Tree Grove -----	1.50-----	1.00-----	.50
New Covenant -----	1.50-----	1.00-----	1.00
Pocahontas -----	2.00-----	1.50-----	.50
Poplar Valley -----	5.75-----	2.00-----	.50
Hopewell -----	2.00-----	1.50-----	.75
	\$37.55-----	\$17.50-----	\$7.75

D. C. Jones, Chairman,
H. R. Fowler,
Sister I. C. Staten.

MINISTERS' REPORTS

ELD. WAYNE TUCKER—I have pastored 3 churches: Bethel—8 trips, received \$38.30; Sugar Tree Grove church—8 trips, 18 sermons, received \$106.27; Pinie Church—6 trips, 12 sermons, received \$71.80. Preached other places—17 sermons, received \$45.00. Attended 10 funerals, married 2 couples, traveled 2,055 miles. Received for year's labor, \$254.65.

ELD. W. F. VICKREY—I have preached 3 sermons and performed 3 marriage ceremonies. I am working in the Sunday School every Sunday.

RALPH STATEN—I have been the pastor of two churches this last associational year, Pocahontas at half-time and once a month at O'Kean. For Pocahontas I preached 36 sermons, witnessed 3 conversions and 3 additions, and received for services rendered the sum of \$147.06. For O'Kean I preached 33 sermons, witnessed 3 conversions, and received for services the sum of \$107.00. For other places I preached 13 sermons, witnessed 2 conversions, and baptized 2. I have assisted in the conducting of four revivals. I assisted Bro. R. S. Shelton at O'Kean, preached 3 sermons, and received for services the sum of \$10.00. At Willoughby, near Warren, I preached 11 sermons, witnessed 4 conversions, and received \$75.00 for services. At Old Reyno, I preached 17 sermons, witnessed 3 conversions, administered baptism to one, and received for services the sum of \$94.00. At Brazzle, I preached 5 sermons and received for services the sum of \$20.00. I conducted 13 funerals and was paid \$17.00 for services. I performed 2 marriage ceremonies and received \$10.00 for services. I have conducted 48 radio programs with 31 talks, assisted in the conducting of a weekly Bible study at O'Kean, and edited eleven editions of the Free Will Baptist Landmark.

I have preached the total of 149 sermons, witnessed 15 conversions, and received the sum of \$493.56.

ELD. L. J. SMITH—Pastored 2 churches, Carson Lake and Poplar Valley; held 3 revivals; witnessed 12 conversions; baptized 12; preached 98 sermons; preached 14 funerals; married 10 couples, and have received \$254.80 for my services.

W. C. LAKEY—Pastored one church, White Oak, including revival; received \$108.88. Preached at Fender, including revival; received \$146.87. Preached at Alice Brooks church, including revival;

received \$60.05. Preached at Pruett Chapel, including revival; received \$40.63. Preached at Fontaine; received \$59.18. Witnessed 24 conversions; received into church fellowship 10; preached 14 funerals; married 17 couples; received at other places \$49.70.. Total received, \$465.31.

R. S. SHELTON—I have pastored two churches, Pirtle and Ricky's Chapel, and have preached some other places. At Pirtle I preached 25 sermons, traveled 556 miles and received pay of \$60.75; at Rickey's Chapel I preached 28 sermons, traveled 88 miles and received pay of \$36.80. At O'Kean I preached 16 sermons, received pay of \$15.35. Preached a total of 69 sermons, traveled 644 miles, received pay of \$112.90. Held 3 revivals, witnessed 3 conversions, baptized 7, conducted 4 funerals, and married 2 couples. — Your brother in Christ. Pray for us.

August 28, 1944,
3601 Jewett Ave.,
Bakersfield, Calif.

To The Social Band Association of Free Will Baptists,
Convening With The Pirtle Church.

Greetings, in the name of Christ, our Lord:

I thank the dear Lord that although I am in the army I can still work for my Lord and King. I have been busy this past year preaching in the different churches here at Bakersfield, Calif. We have witnessed 2 conversions in the Salvation Army Church where we preached. We have preached 8 sermons at the Gospel Gleaners in E. Bakersfield, 15 at the Salvation Army town, 7 sermons at 3rd Chester S. Bakersfield, the 4 Square. I have preached 2 sermons in the Assembly of God in Oildale, and 2 sermons in the Salvation Army in Taft, Calif., also 2 sermons in the Mungunden, Calif., Assembly of God. I have been guest speaker of the Salvation for the radio Ford 8 messages since the 1st of the year. I have preached 2 sermons at Pruitt Chapel, Arkansas. I have received \$90.00 in love offerings since the 1st of November.

I am yours in the service of the King. May God bless and keep you all is my prayer. Pray for me that I will be true to Him.

Elder Henry Pauley,
Pfc., U. S. Army, AAF.

MINISTERS' ENROLLMENT

D. C. Jones	Portia, Arkansas
E. W. Tucker	Peach Orchard, Arkansas
W. F. Vickery	Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
R. S. Shelton	O'Kean, Arkansas
Ralph Staten	Pocahontas, Arkansas
B. F. Forrester	Walnut Ridge, Arkansas
W. T. Shoffitt	Delaplaine, 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, Osceola, 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.
 O'Kean—J. O. Martin.
 Hopewell—C. F. Jones and Ambrose Cavenar.
 New Bethel—Ben Seamon and Hiram White.
 New Hope—Horace Bates.
 Stony Point—Dan Kirk and A. G. Pendergrass.
 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.

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 some 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 and feet washing 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 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 thir 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; I 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 side-step 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; I Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 12:15-17; 1 John 5:16; Heb. 6:1-6; 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 reunited, the righteous shall be received into everlasting happiness to reign with God forever; but the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment.—Matt. 28:6; John 5:28-29; I Cor. 15:51-58.

9. 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 denomination 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

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